SPORTS / A20
BK's Arboleda suspended for rest of PBA season, stands to lose P2.73M

WORLD / A25
US billionaire linked to Sri Lanka terror funding

BUSINESS / B1
Ayala Land gains foothold at Subic Freeport

ACROSS / A17
14 mayors under watch for drugs, says Sotto

NEWS / A2
MILF joins search for Catholic priest

Costly shampoo latest DepEd controversy

AFTER HIGH-PRICED BOOKS AND overpriced noodles comes costly antilice shampoo of the Department of Education (DepEd).

A party-list lawmaker has questioned the DepEd's purchase of lice-removing shampoo for students, saying the chosen products were more expensive than other items available on the market.

Bohemian Rep. Raymond Palatino has

COSTLY! A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 314 P18

Ask Comelec first on film launch, show biz bets told

By Kristine L. Alave

BOOKING A MOVIE premiere? Better ask the Commission on Elections (Comelec) first.

A ranking Comelec official yesterday said

ASK COMELEC! A11

Mayors damn the dam

'San Roque dam near fault line'

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Angry mayors yesterday called for the decommissioning of the San Roque Dam, fearing its location near a fault line raised the possibility that it could collapse during an earthquake and wipe out Pangasinan.

"San Roque Dam is near a fault line in Nueva Vizcaya. What will be the scenario when it breaks? In Urdaneta, water will be 10 stories high. In Lingayen and Dagupan, it will be three stories high," said Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr. of Urdaneta City.

"Pangasinan will be wiped out from the map," Perez said.

"It's now a choice between power generation and the lives of more than two million Pangasinenses," he told the meeting of mayors and provincial officials with national government agencies.

"Let us move as one to decommission the dam," Perez said.

At the very least, San Roque's power-generating capability should be shut down, the mayors said at the meeting called in the wake of the devastating flooding on Oct. 8-10 triggered by Tropical Storm "Pepeng" and worsened by the release of water from the dam.

Alexander Pelaña, flood op-

MAYORS! A12

FOOD LINE Residents of Barangay San Pedro in San Simon, Pampanga, line up on a dike that also serves as a road to receive relief goods from President Macapagal-Arroyo. Their images are reflected on remaining floodwater brought by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." PHOTO BY JOAN BONDOC

They won't come to school anymore

BEFORE it opened on Monday, Pugais Elementary School in La Trinidad town was the venue of funeral wakes for landslide victims. PHOTO BY DELMAR CARIÑO

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Kimberly Tayaba's Grade 6 classmates at Pugais Elementary School hugged her when they saw her back in school on Monday.

They knew that Kimberly, 11, was still in grief. Her mother, Concepcion, was one of the 75 people who died in the massive landslide that buried a section of Little Kibungan in Barangay Pugais here on Oct. 8.

"I am fine," she told the Inquirer.

But it was obvious that Kimberly longed for the company of her friends.

Over at Benguet National High School in Barangay Wangal, junior student Roseanne Ucana's classmates wondered where she was.

She did not report for class on Monday. Efforts to contact her on her mobile phone failed.

Ucana, 15, is the lone survivor after her family—parents Bonifacio and Marissa, and brothers Ariel, 10, and Joseph Allan, 10,—was buried in another landslide in Barangay Kapangan that same Oct. 8 night.

Altogether, 20 people died in Kapangan.

As this town picked itself up from the devastation brought

THEY WON'T! A13

Typhoon races to N. Luzon 'like bullet'

By Nikko Dizon, Christine O. Avendaño, Jocelyn R. Uy and Inquirer Northern Luzon

AFTER TARRYING IN THE Pacific, powerful Typhoon "Parma" yesterday accelerated and barreled down on northern Luzon "like a bullet" with a massive amount of rain similar to the record downpour that killed hundreds last month, weathermen said.

Military and civilian officials put preparations, ongoing since the weekend, into high gear yesterday, dispatching rescue boats, trucks, helicopters and emergency relief aid in strategic places up north.

"I hope the typhoon veers away from the country, but we will prepare for the worst," said Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross in a phone interview.

"We are not leaving anything to chance. We should learn from our mistakes and save more lives," Gordon said.

He appealed to people in low-

TYPHOON A13

Job never really ends for rescuers

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—FERNAL BALLIGA, an aide at the city administrator's office, spent almost 10 days crawling through mud under tonnes of collapsed houses to rescue victims of landslides triggered by Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

Balliga's efforts were rewarded when he pulled out three people from one disaster site. One of those he saved was a man who lost his children in the slide.

The man began looking for endless for his lost family, only to discover that the carpenter

JOB NEVER A13

Seas, rising twice as fast, threaten world's cities

SHANGHAI—THIS CITY OF 20 million rose from the sea and grew into a modern showcase, with skyscrapers piercing the clouds, atop tidal flats fed by the mighty Yangtze River.

Now, Shanghai's future depends on finding ways to prevent the same waters from reclaiming it.

Global warming and melting polar ice sheets are raising sea levels worldwide, leaving tens of millions of people in coastal areas and on low-lying islands vulnerable to flooding and other weather-related catastrophes.

Shanghai, its altitude roughly 3 metres (10 feet) above sea level, is among dozens of big cities—including London, Miami, New York, New Orleans, Mumbai, Cairo, Amsterdam, Tokyo and Manila—threatened by sea levels that are now rising twice as fast as projected just a few years ago, expanding from warmth and meltwater.

Estimates of the scale and timing vary, but Stefan Rahmstorf, a respected expert at Germany's Potsdam Institute, expects a 1-metre rise in this century and up to 5 metres over the next 300 years.

Chinese cities are among the largest and most threatened. Their huge populations—the Yangtze River Delta region alone has about 80 million people—and their rapid growth in-to giant industrial, financial and shipping centers could mean massive losses from rising sea levels, experts say.

The sea is steadily advancing on Shanghai, tainting the city's freshwater supplies as it turns

SEAS, A13

GREENBELT ROBBERY

Cops probe mall security agency

By Marlon Ramos, Allison W. Lopez and Doris C. Dumlao

POLICE YESTERDAY PLACED A private security agency under investigation for security breaches and reinforced protective measures at shopping centers following a blazing gun battle in one of the country's opulentest malls that stunned the public.

Initial investigation indicated that the gunmen—who seized 64 pieces of Rolex watches worth a total of about P6 million from the Rolex shop—belonged to a big-time gang linked to a series of major robberies and possibly aided by another known group.

Sunday's robbery at the Greenbelt 3 mall in Makati City occurred just minutes after President Macapagal-Arroyo had left an Old Girls' Day alumnae gathering at Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village, a few blocks from where the shoot-out occurred.

"Whatever shortcomings were seen are being addressed, and this becomes more urgent as we enter the Christmas season," Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said.

"Makati will always be a safe place and we have agreed on measures that we need to implement to keep our residents, investors and visitors safe," Binay added.

COPS PROBE! A13

VELADA 2009 Members of Assumption College Batch 1984 pose with their fellow alumna, President Macapagal-Arroyo, during Sunday's "Velada 2009" celebration in Makati City. The batch hosted this year's event. GRACE ADRIAN CONTRIBUTOR

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

RESIDENTS OF TUMANA, Marikina, who had their homes in Tropical Storm "Ondoy" get temporary roofs over their heads in the form of "shelter boxes" provided by Rotary International at the Marikina Sports Park. —RAY ALKUINO

MILF joins search for Catholic priest

By Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, and Jerry E. Esplanada

THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) has joined search and rescue operations for kidnapped Irish priest Fr. Michael Sinnott of the Missionary Society of St. Columban in the Lanao provinces and western Mindanao.

"Several hundred Moro fighters have been directed to search, locate and rescue the priest and then sweep given free days to positive results," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the Inquirer by phone.

Kabalu said the Oct. 17 directive came from Sammy Al Mansoor, chief of staff of the MILF Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces.

Kabalu said the MILF forces' moves were being coordinated with their counterparts in the government. "We are coordinating coordinating with the Philippine authorities," he said.

Police and military officials have refused to give details of the ongoing effort to recover Sinnott, 79, who was seized from a convent in Pagadian City on Oct. 11.

Daily Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Antonio Cerilles was emboldened to issue statements on the kidnapping, according to Maj. Gen. Tito Dolorfino, Armed Forces Mindanao Command chief.

Kabalu said military and police officials erred in their reports when they tagged Cotingco as behind the kidnapping.

Daily Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Antonio Cerilles was emboldened to issue statements on the kidnapping, according to Maj. Gen. Tito Dolorfino, Armed Forces Mindanao Command chief.

Cotingco was identified by some groups "because of a feud between the Cotingcos and Misuaras families in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur. Some government reports misconstrued," he said.

Kabalu also said MILF forces under Ameril Ladjo were not involved in the kidnapping.

In Manila, the head of the Columban missionaries in the Philippines downplayed the request made by colleagues based in the United States for US government help in securing Sinnott.

Fraternal concern

Fr. Patrick O'Donoghue, regional director for the Philippines of the Missionary Society of St. Columban, said the letter sent by US-based Columban priests to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was written out of "fraternal concern" for Sinnott, "similar to what many others around the world have done."

In a statement to the media Monday, O'Donoghue said he "would be very concerned if people were to misinterpret what the Columbans in the US intended by their request. It is one of fraternal concern for their brother priest and should be seen as that and that alone."

Follow IRP laws

Heeding to the request for help, US Embassy spokesperson Melissa Thompson said Americans whose could not participate in rescue operations for Sinnott because Philippine laws prohibited them from doing so.

But "if there is any information we have or other way we can facilitate (Sinnott's) safe return, we stand ready," Thompson said in an Inquirer interview.

The other day, Gary Olivar, deputy spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the Philippine government must rescue or ordering the aid of US troops in rescuing Sinnott.

He said the government would not refuse "whatever help we can get from other countries, including the US," that Filipino forces would still lead the operation, he added. With a report from Oona Hontiveros

Lacson given more time to file response; Dacers charge Erap

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) HAS given Sen. Panfilo Lacson until Monday to file a counterrebuttal to the murder complaint filed against him by the daughters of publicist Salvador Dacer whose murder and that of his driver Emmanuel Corbito, in November 2000 were laid at the door of the senator.

Also charging Lacson are lawyer of Dacer's daughters, Demorrie Custodio, said that Carina Dacer, Yedina Dacer Reyes, Emily Dacer Hungerford and Amparo Dacer Escueta had signed a complaint against former President Joseph Estrada for his alleged involvement in the Dacer-Corbito slays.

The DOJ committee handling the double murder case gave Lacson's lawyers the extension after the panel finished the preliminary investigation on Oct. 8 and submitted the case for resolution.

The panel, chaired by Senior State Prosecutor Peter Ong, initially denied the Lacson camp's motion for an extension to file a counterrebuttal.

The senator's lawyers had filed a motion in the Supreme Court questioning the conduct of the preliminary investigation of Lacson while a case against the senator remained in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Lacson was named a respondent in the murder of Dacer and Corbito after former police colonel Cesar Mancao II identified the then national police chief as the one who gave the order to kill Dacer in 2000.

Dacer's daughters filed the complaint on the basis of Mancao's sworn statement linking Lacson to their father's death.

Custodio said yesterday the Dacers had already given him their signed complaint against Estrada. He said he received the notarized copy two weeks after he sent the draft complaint to them.

Custodio said their camp was now attaching annexes to the Dacers' complaint.

"It should be ready (on Tuesday) but to be safe we'll file it on Wednesday," Custodio said.

Custodio said the main evidence against Estrada were Mancao's affidavit wherein he identified a certain "Bapoi" as a central character in the murder plot and his eyewitness to which he said he knew Estrada or he one of those who knew about the plot.

Proposed law would treat cheating spouses equally

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE REVISION of laws has recommended the passage of a bill that would punish the crime of adultery (for women) and concubinage (for men) with the crime of marital infidelity that would apply equally to both sexes.

The bill would also prohibit a spouse from filing a criminal complaint for infidelity if the complainant had likewise been unfaithful.

Under present law, adultery is now committed by the husband. The Revised Penal Code states that "adultery is committed by any married woman who shall have sexual intercourse with a man not her husband." she faces imprisonment of 2 to 6 years.

On the other hand, the Revised Penal Code defines concubinage as: "any husband who shall keep a mistress in the conjugal dwelling, or shall have sexual intercourse, under scandalous circumstances, with a woman who is not his wife, or shall cohabit with her in any other place..." He faces imprisonment of 6 months to 6 years.

When it comes to marital infidelity, the existing law seems biased against the woman. If the wife commits one act of adultery, she and her lover can be criminally charged.

However, the husband who commits numerous acts of marital infidelity cannot be sued by his wife for adultery. The philandering husband cannot be sued for concubinage.

Concubinage is also harder to prove, according to the committee, chaired by Iloilo Rep. Exequiel Javier.

In the proposed bill, marital infidelity is committed by any married person who has sexual intercourse with someone other than his or her spouse. Any person who has sexual intercourse with a married person will also be held liable.

"The present law governing the infidelity of a married person is one of the laws that underlines the inequality of the sexes before the law... To equalize the rights of men and women before the law, this bill seeks to punish the infidelity of a married person under the same circumstances by combining the crime of adultery and concubinage into a single crime applicable similarly to both men and women," the bill states.

The proposed legislation, a consolidation of similar bills filed by Representatives Lito Atienza, Lorenzo Tañada, Joel Villanueva, Cinchona Luz Carlos and Narciso Santiago III, prescribes a punishment of 6 months to 6 years imprisonment.

It also proposes that the offended party will not be able to file criminal cases if he or she likewise committed marital infidelity, or if he or she abandoned the unfaithful spouse for at least one year. For more than one year, or if he or she does not include both guilty parties in the complaint.

The bill also proposes that Muslims and indigenous people be held liable for marital infidelity regardless of their faith and traditions.

Government officials and government employees would be held guilty of marital infidelity will be slapped with a harsher penalty of 8 to 6 years imprisonment.

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Reyes asks about imposing oil price ceiling

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) yesterday sought the opinions of the justice and finance departments on the possible imposition of price ceilings on local petroleum products while the country is in a state of calamity.

In a briefing yesterday, Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said he had written the two departments to ask whether or not the DOE could implement price controls over local petroleum products, despite the economic, legal and financial implications of such a move.

"It the government prepared to subsidize? Can government afford it if we implement a price ceiling? If they want [us to implement it], I will do it immediately," Reyes said.

The move stemmed from the sell of several oil firms in just petroleum products under price control, given the massive increase brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" in Luzon.

"While we are anxious to heed the clamor, the Price Act does not expressly mention petroleum products and the Department of Energy as one of the basic commodities and as one of the implementing agencies, respectively," Reyes pointed out. "We cannot make moves that, any action we shall take on the matter is founded on solid legal footing."

In his Oct. 19 letter to Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera, Reyes asked if price controls could be imposed considering the provisions of the law.

Should this be allowed, the energy chief asked if it would be the DOE or the Department of Trade and Industry that would implement it.

Reyes had declared earlier that imposing price ceilings on petroleum products were directly against the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Law.

Economist and Inquirer columnist Solita Monsod, who was at the briefing, said that she "may not be in favor of imposing price ceilings on local petroleum products as this "will result to shortages like mad."

Asked for his reaction, Petron Corp. president Eric O. Recto told the Inquirer: "We are open to any move by the DOE to ensure that oil prices are fair and reasonable. We have always cooperated with the DOE in the interest of transparency and will continue to do so."

A Manila court, meanwhile, will subpoena Reyes as a witness on a motion for the issuance of a temporary restraint and writ of preliminary injunction on the continuing increase of oil prices "on a weekly basis" by the Big 3 oil players.

"It would be better if [Reyes] testifies so that a court would be done on the issues," said Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26.

During yesterday's hearing, former National Economic and Development Authority Director General Ralph Recto was cross-examined by lawyers of the Big 3.

Recto reiterated on the witness stand his previous statement that prices of petroleum products were overpriced by as much as P9 a liter and claimed that there was cartelism among the top oil players. Amy R. Remo and Jeannette I. Andrade

Labor Party Lapiang Manggagawa endorses Ebdane's Presidential bid

Reinforcing the support of political leaders and civil society groups from Mindanao and the Visayas, for Public Works and Highways Secretary Ebdane's Presidential bid, the Labor Party Lapiang Manggagawa (LM), the country's third oldest Political Party today announced its "all-out" support for him in the 2010 Presidential derby.

LM Presidential Lawyer Jose Malvar Villegas Jr., said although Secretary Ebdane's chances had been down-played by some quarters, he is the "dark horse" that can make the difference in the presidential election, being a "non-traditional politician", and the bureaucrat of "impeccable integrity."

Villegas, a co-founder of Lakas Tao party, the precursor of the Lakas-NUCD-UMDP and major founder of the Reforma-LM coalition under which former Defense Secretary Renato C. De Villa ran for president in 1998, predicted that Secretary Ebdane can be the "alternative" choice for President as he is an honest government worker who has never been involved in irregularities, not to mention his being accessible to all sectors, especially the poor and the under-previleged. That qualifies him as leader of a future labor government once the LM wins the presidency and other local and national elective positions.

"His experience as PNP Director-General, National Security Adviser, DILG Secretary and lately as DPWH Secretary speaks well of his capacity and competence to extricate our country from various problems spawned by political bickering and natural calamities," commented Villegas, also National Chairman of the 3 million-strong Citizen's Crime Watch (CCW).

"The vicious cycle of the executive power being monopolized by traditional politicians should now be relegated to the dustbin of history so that the country could move on to lasting peace and economic progress, instead of being always stalled by recrimination among traditional leaders," Villegas stressed.

The grandson of national hero Gen. Miguel Malvar believes that an Ebdane Presidency can address the clamor for public officials to again adhere to the doctrine that "public office is a public trust," which can be "prostituted" by traditional politicians as evidenced by their involvement with shenanigans and petty scams.

"Secretary Ebdane held sensitive positions in the Government, but he never made himself hostage to the pernicious culture of graft and corruption that have blemished the honor and reputation of not a few cabinet members, making him a stand-out as alternative choice for President," Villegas said.

He added that LM followers and CCW members nationwide are in a state of readiness for mobilization behind Secretary Ebdane's candidacy for president.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 17 ISSUE, a front-page story—"MV ready to welcome 11 soldiers"—misnamed that Capt. Rubin Dalmilling is a recipient of the Medal of Valor, the highest award accorded a Filipino soldier by the Armed Forces.

* * *

IN THE OCT. 19 ISSUE, an article on Page A7—"Cargo plane crashes in Las Piñas; 4 killed"—misspelled the surname of a banking. The victim's name is Jaguar Jeane—not Jeanne.

* * *

THE SAME ARTICLE incorrectly described Jaguar Jeane as the owner of Victoria Asia Air Services. The owner is Jerry Jeane, a relative of Jaguar's.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Alejandro Roces, Makati City, fax them to 897-4150 or 897-4158, or e-mail address: dayedit@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to the Public Editor's e-mail address: jcandelaria@inquirer.com.ph or fax No. 897-4158, via Juan Tha Publisher. His phone number is 897-0808 local 550.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 20, 2009
29th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Rom 5: 12, 15a&b, 17-19, 20-21
Gospel: Lk 12: 35-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dressed for action, and keep your lamps lit, like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. At what time he comes and knocks, they will open at once. Happy are those servants whom the master finds ready and waiting when he comes. Today I tell you, he will gird on an apron, sit them down at a table and he will wait on them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake when he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

Commentary:

In the story of today's gospel, a different image breaks in: if the householder had known at what time the burglar was coming, he wouldn't have let his house be broken into. The one who is to come, is not only a person but also a reward, referred to our sustenance, a shelter or the eternal dwelling promises by which we order our lives. We are the householders; we think we are in control. We stay at God's coming contrary to all this.

The Son of Man will come at an hour we do not expect. So much for the easy images of death as a swift assailant up to the pearly gates of heaven. Christ will come, not only at the time we least expect him, but in a form we least expect. We too, who will come in glory, but already here here, many times and in many shapes hungry and thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick and in prison. We die time here many times and judged as the time we wanted this. May we be alert for Christ's coming and recognize Him in every man, woman and child, and especially in those most in need of our help.

'Nene' quits party

AFTER 38 YEARS with the Partido Demokratiko ng Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), party chair Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. is quitting to be a "free spirit."

Pimentel, the former senate minority leader whose term ends next year, announced his "irrevocable resignation" in an Oct. 12 letter to party president Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Pimentel explained his resignation in the bayanihan publishing. As to his letter, he would not say why he resigned.

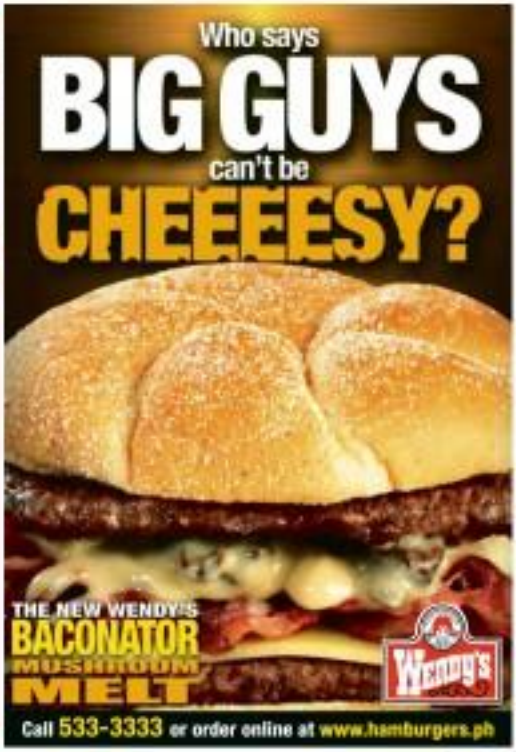
One thing for a definite about—he is not running for any position in the May 2010 elections.

"I'll not resigning irrevocably as chairman of the party, which anyway has been more honorific than useful, for the moment, for me. But I would not be a free spirit if I resigned said in his letter.

Binay, however, said Pimentel resigned because he was a stalwart for party processes and he did not see these followed in the selection of candidates for next year's elections.

Binay is running for vice president along with former President Joseph Estrada.

Christine Avendaño



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Shorter classes shortchanging students, says crusader

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE DECISION TO SHORTEN class hours in crowded schools is "shortchanging" students, especially with textbooks riddled with errors still plaguing the public school system, "rich families" crusader Antonio Calipio Go said yesterday.

Go said the Department of Education (DepEd) should better manage its proposed P172.8 billion budget instead of cutting school hours and targeting subjects to compensate for reduced learning time.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus in August ordered classes in overcrowded public elementary schools to be shortened to four hours.

"When you integrate two subjects into one, you are not really 'compensating' the students, for that word means to recompense for something, to make up for, to pay. You are, in fact, shortchanging your customers," Go said.

He noted that Grade 1 and 2 public school students were already not taught Science and Health, but now only the English, shortened class hours, their civics subject, Hiligay or Kalikasan itself already a conglomeration of other subjects lumped together under the general learning area called Makabansa—will again be integrated into Filipino.

As a result, "there will be only three learning areas in Grades 1 and 2—English, Math and Filipino/Hiligay. How were the Grades 1 and 2 pupils reorganized' by this scheme when they are not only learning time but also learning competencies?" Go said.

He noted that Science and Health had always been caught in pecuniary schools from the preschool level, "integrating Math as in Bahasa into Filipino will definitely weaken both subjects precisely because of the time limit. Both will suffer from being mixed up and diluted," he added.

Go said the DepEd's claim that classes in crowded schools were shortened in response to "the public clamor for less disturbing breaks" was "rubbing salt on the open wound of public frustration over the DepEd's inability ... to provide quality education to public school students."

Go said the DepEd's budget allocation this year would be increased from P167.3 billion to P172.8 billion.

"So now parent would want his or her child to be taught less," he said. "Why aren't there enough classrooms and school buildings when the DepEd's inventory increases every year?"

He said the DepEd was practically awash in cash.

"The question to ask is 'How are these funds being managed?' For instance, would you call it prudent use of the public's money for the DepEd to be employing so many undersecretaries (six) and assistant secretaries (seven)?" Go said.

Go also noted that the DepEd "squandered" P5.7 million in 2008–09 for its "In-Town trek."

Costly shampoo latest DepEd controversy

From page A1

filed a resolution calling for an investigation of the DepEd's procurement of cosmetic shampoo and sponges, medical devices used to maintain the hair.

Hidalgo said the DepEd bought the cosmetic shampoo for P90,000, or at P12 per 10 milliliters, but he said a less-expensive shampoo under the brand Lavender is sold for only P9.82 in the markets.

"They have a lot of explaining to do with regard to the pricing discrepancies or, more pricing," he said in a statement.

Second most common ailment

Dedicadoras or infestation with lice, especially of the genus *Pediculus*, is the second most common ailment among public school children aged 7 to 12 years, next only to dental caries, according to the DepEd.

Nearly 8 million young public school children were afflicted with pediculosis. The study was conducted in 2000 by the DepEd's national director for health, said in 2000.

Students with lice have difficulty catching lessons in school. Itchiness and profuse head becomes a "serious problem" for teachers, who could not seem to hold the attention of the children because of the persistent scratching to clear.

She cited a DepEd study in 1999 showing that 7.69 million children in public schools were affected with the "ailment."

That represented 64 percent of the 9.28 million students examined by medical nurses in fifteen Manila and the provinces.

Southern Tagalog and Central Visayas had the largest number of students who suffered from pediculosis, according to the study.

Until 2000, the DepEd had not paid attention to treating the infestation. Its health service provided mostly prevention measures, as neither solution has been to eradicate the annoying parasites after infestation.

They were also conducting a massive information campaign on proper hygiene among young students. "Even high school students have pediculosis, and it also affects their attractiveness," Santos said.

Impacted cerumen

Palatino said the otoscopes were bought for P1 million at P33,333 per set. But he claimed that similar items were worth only P2,000 to P3,000 in the market.

Otoscopes are instruments with lighting and magnifying systems used to facilitate visual examinations of the auditory canal and the eardrums.

The otoscopes may be used in addressing impacted cerumen, or the hardened yellowish substances inside the ear. Impacted cerumen, known in colloquial language as ear wands "hatok," is the seventh leading illness among grade 1 school students, according to the DepEd study in 1999.

The problem causes teachers to get the wrong impression that the children are not listening or that they are deaf because they don't easily pick up what the teacher is saying, according to educators.

Ferrous sulfate tablets

Palatino noted that the DepEd also bought P1 million worth of ferrous sulfate tablets, P1.8 million worth of dental anesthetics and P1.2 million worth of disposable dental needles.

Franklin Bangis, education undersecretary for legal affairs, said the DepEd was conducting its own fact-finding review of the acquisition of allegedly unwanted chronic shampoo.

"[For the Robredos party-list, sir, we] want what is best for the children. We hated anomalies—which is hard-headed—more suited for the lab, and with criminal sub-offense," Bangis said.

He said the DepEd "can't say when it comes to children's health, and we need to balance that by being conservative when we spend public funds."

Nevertheless, he said the DepEd would fully cooperate in any inquiry.

No payment yet for otoscopes

On the alleged overpricing of otoscopes, the DepEd said in a statement that no payment had been made for their procurement.

"The otoscopes filed will be quarantined and two technical working groups—the dental- or ophthalmoscopes for dentists and to check the cited. These equipment are 83-made and were found to be more durable than other brands, than the higher price," it said.

The DepEd added that the otoscopes "had unwanted brand users" that can fit the ears of both children and adults.

"We think the Robredos party-list by their continuing concern for our children and we assure the public that DepEd has the best interest of the schoolchildren in mind," Bangis said.

Review purchases

Palatino said a closer look must be taken at the DepEd's purchases, especially since several confusions over the procurement of allegedly overpriced instant noodles and excessive textbooks had not been resolved.

The DepEd has suspended the purchase of the instant noodles for its school feeding program after their price and alleged lack of instructed safety were questioned.

"In light of the suspended 'Instant Noodles Scam' and the previous textbook scam, pricing discrepancies are deeply concerning and coaxing the public whose ends for DepEd is to effectively implement health programs and projects and to look after the welfare of public schoolchildren," Palatino said.

The Senate found that in the past five years, one company, Investor Manufacturing Corp., obtained the contract to supply the noodles. Surveys are unsettled on projects under the feeding program for the last five years and was paid P758 million.

Fortified with vitamins

Education Undersecretary Ted Sangil said at a Senate hearing last summer that the noodles had been verified to contain vitamins and minerals by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Sangil said the cost of commercial noodles was P6 to P9 for a 45-gm to 55-gm packet. The noodles that the DepEd serves the students cost P17.80 for a 100-gm packet, which is good for two servings.

Last week, the DepEd issued "Teaching Notes" to correct more than 450 errors found in 10 English textbooks issued last year for use of public school students from Grade 1 to Grade 6. Leila B. Salaverria and Philip C. Tubeza

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Bachelor of Elementary Education – Pre-School
Bachelor of Elementary Education – SPED
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Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management
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FRESHMEN: Form 138, Certificate of Good Moral Character
CROSS-ENROLLEE: Permit to Cross Enroll
TRANSFEREE: Honorable Dismissal, Transcript of Records, Certificate of Good Moral Character
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ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Main Campus, Sampaloc, Manila
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Andres Bonifacio Campus, Caloocan City
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Jose Rizal Campus, Malabon City
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Pasay Campus
ENROLLMENT FOR 2ND SEM SY 2009-10 IS NOW GOING ON

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-0151 / 920-0116
Shellfish Bulletin No. 33
Series of 2009
16 October 2009
Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shellfish collected in Dumanquilas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur, Sarangani Bay and Lagu-Lagunan in Maitum, Sarangani, Davao Gulf in Davao City, Compostela and San Fernando Bays in Compostela Valley, Lianga Bay in Surigao del Sur, and Cabalian Bay in Southern Leyte are safe for human consumption.
Shellfish gathered from the areas as shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.
The following areas continue to be FREE from toxic red tides: coastal waters of Cavite, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Navotas, Bulacan and Bataan in Manila Bay; coastal waters of Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, Masbate; Ilog-Hilabangan Bay in Negros Occidental; coastal waters of Malapaya and Gigantes Islands in Iloilo; Batan Island in Aklan; Pandan, Panay, Mandu City, Maayon, Sapian, Dumalag, Dumarao, Ivisan, Sigma, Tapaz, Dao, Dumalag, Roxas, Panitan, Cuartero, Dao, Dumalag, Roxas, Panitan, Cuartero, Dao, Dumalag, Roxas, Panitan, Cuartero

Wyeth

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Age 4, Robinsons Torubes, Manila

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Age 4, Robinsons Imus, Cavite

Zachary Sean Cheng
Age 4, SM Sta. Rosa, Laguna

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The Philippine Medical Association

TO THE DOCTORS IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Statements on the Role of Antibiotic Chemoprophylaxis against Leptospirosis

A. Pre-exposure Measures

1. The most effective preventive measure is the avoidance of high-risk exposure (i.e. wading in floods and contaminated water, contact with animal body fluids).
2. If high risk exposure is unavoidable, appropriate protective measures include wearing boots, goggles, overalls, and rubber gloves.
3. Pre-exposure antibiotic prophylaxis is **NOT ROUTINELY RECOMMENDED**. However, in those individuals who intend to visit highly endemic areas AND get exposed, pre-exposure prophylaxis may be considered.

> **Pre-exposure prophylaxis regimen for non-pregnant, non-lactating adult:**
>
> *Doxycycline*, 2 capsules of 100 mg/ capsule once weekly, to begin 1 to 2 days before exposure and continuing through the period of exposure
>
> Currently, there is **NO** recommended pre-exposure prophylaxis that is safe for pregnant and lactating women.

B. Post-Exposure Measures

1. Antibiotic prophylaxis in the prevention of leptospirosis is **NOT 100% effective.**
2. Factors that may affect prophylactic effectiveness include the quality of the drug, timing of intake of the antibiotic, drug interaction, the presence or absence of skin wounds, and degree and extent of exposure.
3. Antibiotic prophylaxis of leptospirosis may be achieved by administration of doxycycline depending on the risk category of exposure.

   3.1. **LOW RISK** is defined as those individuals with a single history of wading in flood or contaminated water but with absence of wounds, cuts or open lesions of the skin.

   Doxycycline (hydrochloride or hyclate) at 2 capsules of 100 mg/capsule **single dose** within 24 to 72 hours of exposure.

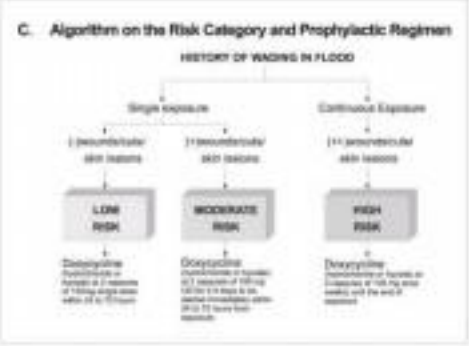
   3.2. **MODERATE RISK** is defined as those individuals with a single history of wading in flood or contaminated water and the presence of wounds, cuts, or open lesions of the skin, OR accidental ingestion of contaminated water.

   Doxycycline (hydrochloride or hyclate) at 2 capsules of 100 mg/capsule **once a day for 3-5 days** to be started immediately within 24 to 72 hours of exposure.

   3.3. **HIGH RISK** is defined as those individuals with continuous exposure (i.e., those with more than a single exposure; those exposed for several days, e.g., residents in flooded areas, rescuers and relief workers). People who wade in flooded or contaminated water everyday - **with or without** wounds, cuts or open lesions of the skin; those who swim in flooded water and ingest contaminated water are also considered high risk.

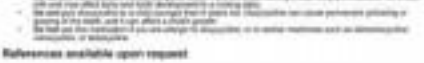
   Doxycycline (hydrochloride or hyclate) at 2 capsules of 100 mg/capsule **once weekly until the end of exposure**
4. The use of such prophylaxis **REQUIRES PRIOR CONSULT WITH A PHYSICIAN**. It should not be taken unless prescribed and fully explained by a physician, including common side-effects and contraindications.
5. **SINCE ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS IS NOT 100% EFFECTIVE, INDIVIDUALS SHOULD CONTINUE TO MONTOR THEMSELVES FOR FEVER AND OTHER FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS.**

C. Algorithm on the Risk Category and Prophylactic Regimen



ANNEX

Doxycycline



References available upon request

Quake rocks Luzon, Metro

A 5.3-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE ROCKED southern and Central Luzon and parts of Metro Manila yesterday but did not cause any significant damage or casualties, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported.

Phivolcs said on its website that the tremor quake occurred at around 7:50 a.m. Monday, with the epicenter estimated at 60 kilometers northeast of Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, at a depth of 132 kilometers.

It was felt in Intensity 4 in Lubang, Mindoro Occidental; Intensity 3 in Batangas City; Sta. Cruz(Isles) and Cloth, Nasugbu; and Intensity 2 in the cities of Manila, Makati, Pasay City, Mandaluyong, Caloocan, Talisay and Cavite.

Phivolcs said aftershocks should be expected in the area. Nikko Dizon

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Parties/entities caught **ILLEGALLY SELLING, BUYING** and/or **DEALING IN** with the said products shall be held criminally, civilly and administratively liable together with **MARYLAND DISTRIBUTORS, INC. (MDI)** in accordance with Section 168, 168.1, 168.2, 168.3 (a), (b) and (c) and Section 170 of Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, and/or under pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

There is now pending before the Department of Justice a formal **CRIMINAL CASE** docketed as **CASE NO. XVI-INV-09F-00403** for violation of Section 168 in relation to Section 170 of Republic Act No. 8293, otherwise known as Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, initiated by referral complaint of the **NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI)** against the officers of **MDI**.

Anyone having knowledge or information of the sale/distribution of the subject Red Bull Supreme Energy Drink is requested to report the matter to the undersigned.

STA. ANA & LAURON LAW FIRM
117 West Avenue, Quezon City, Mobile No. (0939) 512-4391

Counsel for:
ENERGY FOOD AND DRINKS, INC.
Philippine Exclusive Distributor of Red Bull Energy Drinks

Typhoon races to northern Luzon

From page A1

Ishig news: "If you can hwide rivers or creeks, get out of there."

Packing peak winds of 195 kilometers per hour gusting up to 230 kph, the Category 4 typhoon (strong tropical storm) is expected to enter the country at 11 p.m. according to a 4 p.m. bulletin issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Ramil, internationally designated "Lupit," the fifteenth storm for 2009, had lingered in the Pacific about 1,000 kilometers east of the Philippines, held by a "trough" (area of low pressure) until this morning and only allowed the 20th weather disturbance of the season to move strong.

Within hours, Ramil gained strength and quickened its speed.

"It's like a bullet or a slingshot now that is heading straight to northern Luzon," Nathaniel Cruz, Pagasa deputy administrator, told reporters.

Ramil could become a supertyphoon with winds inside of up to 300 kph when it hits Cagayan on Thursday and rain across northern Luzon is set to fall on Friday.

Pagasa chief Prisco Nilo said that with Ramil's wide circulation, northern and central provinces of Luzon would feel its effects late today. He said the typhoon was likely to bring some 20- to 25-millimeters of torrential rain per hour.

Comparable to Ondoy

"It could be comparable to Ondoy," Nilo said, referring to the record rainfall the tropical storm dumped on Metro Manila on Sept. 26 that inundated huge parts of the Philippine capital and killed 386 people during a 24-hour rainy.

Typhoon "Pepeng" followed on Oct. 3, staying for more than a week as a tropical storm, sparking flooding and landslides and leaving 418 dead and hundreds of thousands homeless in four regions in Luzon.

The Philippine Air Force yesterday ordered more than 15 tons of rice to villagers still isolated by landslides during Pepeng's wrecking pounding.

Four PAF helicopters and another from the United Nations brought rice to the villages of Lepak in Kabayan town and Tabeling in Kibungan town, both in other mountainous districts said.

Rains caused some landslides along Halsema Highway yesterday, but the Department of Public Works and Highways immediately cleared these.

Albert Gubtal, district engineer, said the agency had orders to keep open all major roads.

Forced evacuation

In Pangasinan, Gov. Amado Espino Jr. directed mayors and police chiefs to conduct preemptive, and if necessary, forcible, evacuation of families in danger zones and towering trees.

"Since the San Roque Dam has no reliable flood warning protocol, the decision to determine suitable evacuation centers will be left to your better judgment and sound discretion," Espino said in an advisory to local government and police officials.

"You are advised to stay alert, be proactive and to take all precautionary measures to ensure your respective constituents to prevent unnecessary casualties," he said. (See story on Page A1 .)

In Benguet, the Lucky City government started preparing evacuation areas and called parade.

Mayor Michael Bello asked all department heads in the city government to be ready and have their vehicles gasoline upon at all times in case disaster strikes. The city received 2,400 relief packs and 600 packs of clothing from Manila last week.

In Subbeb, more than 800 Army soldiers were sent over to assisted to help in rescue and relief operations in Cagayan Valley.

Blue alert

Some 40,000 soldiers or half of the entire strength of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were placed on "blue alert," requiring the men to stay in camps in case of emergency said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr.

"We are reinforcing local units especially in areas that could be cut off like Batanes and Cagayan Valley," said Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., head of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

As of press time, two UH-1H helicopters already took position in Tuguegarao while a Huey II and a Sikorsky aircraft were ready to take off anytime from the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

Four other aircraft have been deployed to various points in Luzon, said Philippine Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Zamudio.

An F-27 Fokker medium lift plane and a C-130 cargo plane have also been prepared should there be a need for more air support, he said.

The Navy has also allotted 26 rubber boats, 13 M35 trucks, two amphibious trucks and one amphibian craft, said Navy spokesperson Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo. The Red Cross deployed 50 rescue boats.

Interim dam protocol

National Power Corp. (Napocor) announced that it had begun to implement an interim protocol for the release of water from the San Roque Dam to prevent a repeat of the massive flooding in Pangasinan that the facility worsened when it opened its spillways.

The protocol called for the lowering of the high water level at the San Roque Dam by two meters from 280 meters above sea level (masl) to 278 masl. This means that Napocor could begin releasing water at 278 masl.

This move would "increase the capability of the flood control function of the dam," said Napocor vice president Wellington S. Chiu in a briefing.

He said that the extra two meters would enable the dam to hold an extra 28 million cubic meters of water, thus increasing its storage capacity.

As of yesterday, the San Roque Dam was still releasing water at some 900 cms in preparation for the supertyphoon, as the water level was estimated at 279 masl.

Chiu also pointed out that warnings would be issued six hours before any increase from seven—before water is released from the dam.

These notices will be issued to the media and the NDCC, as well as to the disaster coordinating councils at the provincial and municipal levels.

Also, mobile warning systems and flood warning stations should report the warning using local dialect one hour before actual release is to be made, "the protocol said. *With reports from Joy S. Rosco in Abra de ilog and Sylvan Carlos, Gabriel Cardinoza, Cristine Avanceña and Villamor Perez Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD CY 2010 TO 2013 WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2009-015 MC

SOUTH COTABATO I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SOCOTECO I), Applicant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on August 17, 2009, the South Cotabato I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOCOTECO I) filed with the Commission an application for the approval of its capital expenditure program and rate relief adjustment for the year 2009 to 2013, with prayer for provisional authority.

In the said application, SOCOTECO I seeks the Commission's review and approval of the following proposed capital expenditure projects and rate relief adjustments for the year 2009 to 2013:

Table 1. PROPOSED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS

PROPOSED CAPEX PROJECTS

	Project Description	Cost (PhP)	Implementing Year
1	Installation of 3-1/0 ACSR Mid-Kid Feeder 04	1,197,512.00	2009
2	Splitting of Feeder 10 (Mt. Sto. Feeder) Main Feeder 10-E, Feeder 10-I	9,214,000.00	2009
3	Feeder 0- Line Conversion (1 Phase to 3 Phase) ACSR 4	1,610,250.00	2009
4	Installation of Power Capacitors at Feeder 03	200,000.00	2009
5	1.0 Km Line Conversion (1Phase to 3 Phase) ACSR 2-1/0 at Feeder 03	2,231,750.00	2009
6	Load Transfer of Circuit Isolex Feeder 11 to Feeder 02	497,944.00	2009
7	New Substation	21,864,000.00	2009
8	Distribution Transformer Expansion Requirements	2,945,387.00	2009
9	Recurring Expansion	909,514.00	2009
10	Acquisition of Back up substation	1,800,000.00	2009
11	Acquisition of Substation Power Line	10,154,753.00	2009
12	Sub-transmission	10,154,753.00	2009-2013
13	23 Kvolt Line Expansion	4,651,714.00	2010
14	New Substation	19,807,753.00	2010
15	Distribution Transformer Expansion Requirements	3,945,387.00	2010
16	Recurring Expansion	909,947.00	2010
17	Installation of 69 KV Disconnect Switch at the Sub-station Feeder position to Isolex Substation	1,800,000.00	2010
18	Installation of Recloser Disconnect Switch at the Sub-station Feeder position to Isolex Substation	700,000.00	2010
19	Acquisition of Recloser Switch	475,000.00	2010
20	Installation 3-1/0 ACSR MR at Feeder 02	700,000.00	2010
21	Construction of 69KV Substation and 23KV 4/0 ACSR Line	41,191,000.00	2010
22	New Substation	19,813,000.00	2011
23	Distribution Transformer Expansion Requirements	3,945,387.00	2011
24	23 Kvolt Line Expansion	3,774,000.00	2011
25	Recurring Expansion	910,000.00	2011
26	Construction of Tie Line from Koronadal Sub 69 KV Line	21,800,000.00	2011
27	Distribution Transformer Expansion Requirements	3,945,387.00	2012
28	New Substation	19,813,000.00	2012
29	23 Kvolt Line Expansion	3,774,000.00	2012
30	Recurring Expansion	910,000.00	2012
31	Construction of Tie Line from Koronadal Sub 69 KV Line	21,800,000.00	2012
32	Distribution Transformer Expansion Requirements	3,945,387.00	2013
33	New Substation	19,813,000.00	2013
34	23 Kvolt Line Expansion	3,774,000.00	2013
35	Recurring Expansion	910,000.00	2013
36	Replacement of 10 MVA with 20 MVA Power Transformer	20,000,000.00	2013
	Grand Total	**239,556,474.00**	

Table 2. PROPOSED NON-NETWORK ASSETS

NON-NETWORK ASSETS

	Project Description	Cost (PhP)	Implementing Year
1	Construction and Relocation of SOCOTECO I Office	20,000,000.00	2009
2	ICT Equipments	3,750,000.00	2009
3	Purchase of 6 Maintenance Vehicles	4,200,000.00	2009-2010
4	ICT Equipments	1,875,000.00	2010
5	ICT Equipments	1,875,000.00	2011
6	Purchase of Transport Vehicle (Mobile Testing)	3,000,000.00	2011
7	Accounting Software and Facilities	1,800,000.00	2011
8	Software and Facilities for GIS	1,800,000.00	2012
9	ICT Equipments	1,875,000.00	2012
	Total	**40,000,000.00**	

The Commission may set the application for initial hearing and pre-trial conference on **November 5, 2009** (Thursday) at nine o'clock in the morning (**9:00 A.M.**) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a petition setting forth the grounds and the interest asserted, the relief sought, the extent of the proceeding, and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter or the corresponding rate of the implementation of the application may avail of any stage of the proceeding before the application is submitted for decision either by manifestation, if they do not desire to participate in the proceedings, or by memorandum, if they desire to participate. Such manifestation or memorandum shall briefly state the position and interest of the person taking the same, and a statement of the facts and grounds relied upon in support thereof.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial meeting, that they be furnished with a copy of the application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS: the Honorable Chairperson, **ZENAIDA G. CRUZ-DUCUT**, and the Honorable Commissioners, **ANNA A. VAN, ALEJANDRO D. OMBE, MARIA TERESA A. N. CAMARERA** and **JOSE C. ALEJAGA**, Energy Regulatory Commissioners, this 24th day of September 2009 at Pasig City.

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ORATIO IMPERATA

AD REPELLENDAS TEMPESTATES ALIASQUE CALAMITATES
(Mandated Prayer for Deliverance from Typoons and other Calamities)

To be prayed at every Mass right after Communion

Almighty Father, we raise our hearts to You in gratitude
for the wonders of creation of which we are part,
for Your providence that sustains us in our needs, and
for Your wisdom that guides the course of the universe.

We acknowledge our sins against You and the rest of creation.
We have not been good stewards of Nature.
We have confused Your command to subdue the earth.

The environment is made to suffer our wrongdoing,
and now we reap the harvest of our abuse and indifference.
Global warming is upon us. Typhoons, heavy rains, floods,
drought, volcanic eruption, and other natural calamities,
occur in increasing number and intensity.

We turn to You, our loving Father, and beg forgiveness for our sins.
We ask that we, our loved ones and our hard-earned possessions
be spared from the threat of calamities, natural and man-made.
We beseech You to inspire us all to grow into
responsible stewards of Your creation,
and generous neighbors to those in need.
We ask this, with the intercession of our Blessed Mother,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(With Ecclesiastical Approval)

Joey, Here is the "Oratio Imperata." + Arlo

A prayer for the nation from the people of Albay, Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (APSEMO) and the Center for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation (CIRCA).

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COPING WITH CLASSES Teachers of Malabon Elementary School in Bitas town in Laguna have opened their homes to accommodate pupils who were displaced when their school was used as an evacuation center by victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy." — INQUIRER.net/Carolyn Agustin

Mayors damn San Roque Dam

From page A1

erations manager of National Power Corp. (Napocor) who authorized the release, has asked to go on vacation leave.

"I'd just like to be able to recover from the stress that I've been getting in the past days," Peñada told the inquirers.

Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said in a news briefing that Peñada would be temporarily replaced by Magdiwang Garcia, retired national hydrologist of Napocor, which owns the dam operated by San Roque Power Corp. of Marubeni and Razon Electric.

At least 37 people were killed and thousands were made homeless in Pangasinan as the dam opened its six spillways at the height of Ondoy's onslaught, spewing water at the rate of 3,032 cubic meters per second that breached dikes and inundated 38 towns.

By first closing down the dam's 450-megawatt power component, its reservoir will no longer have to be filled to its maximum level," Reyes explained.

"It's the power component that needs a higher water elevation to enable them to have enough pressure to drive the power plants' turbines," he said.

The dam's maximum elevation is 280 meters above sea level (masl). The dam started releasing water on Oct. 7 when its level was 280.3 masl, officials said.

Why take the risk?

Gov. Amado Espino Jr. said the dam must have a water reservation of at least 278 masl to be able to generate electricity.

"Let's put our it for irrigation purposes. That way it won't need a high water elevation. Why should we take the risk?" Roma said.

He said he had heard stories from local workers that there was supposedly no strict supervision during the dam's construction.

Espino said the power that may be lost from San Roque could be replaced by the coal-fired power plant in nearby Isabel town.

"What the mayors are saying is reasonable. First, we don't know who is in charge up there," Espino said. "That's why I told them to forget that the dam is there as a flood control facility."

Vice Gov. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas said that the people in eastern Pangasinan had appealed the project but retained after they were told that its irrigation facility would benefit farmers.

When's irrigation component?

"Unfortunately six years after its operation in 2003, the irrigation component is not still there," Agabas said.

Espino said he was not blaming any agency for the flooding. "But we have been looking for the persons who is responsible for releasing such dangerously large volume of excess water to our sudden bunch that caused massive devastation," he said.

Instead of instigating flooding, the governor said the dam answered it.

Secretary Reyes said he had initially asked Napocor to conduct an inquiry into the operating of the dam's spillways, but decided to reconstitute the panel that will look into "lapses, errors of omission or commission, issues of judgment, or criminal culpability even."

"There's also concern that you cannot have the office investigate itself," he said.

Reyes said the panel would be composed of six academics, an expert on dam operations and a representative from Napocor, San Roque Power Corp., local governments, National Disaster Coordinating Council and National Irrigation Administration. With a report from Amy E. Remo in Manila

They won't come to school anymore

From page A1

absence by the landslides, teachers have renamed classes with a common lesson plan: Make schools a comfort zone for learners, for those who lost their loved ones and for those who feared going back to school.

Both schools held another flag ceremonies on Monday. Some students were sad and on the verge of crying after hearing that some of their classmates would never come to school again. They had died in the landslides.

Pupils Elementary School principal Emilia Tapnio called a meeting to lead the prayers to Pangil.

Five pupils died in Little Kilangan—Ian Timothy Molito, 10; Nova Rose Bernasol, 12; Jeanaro Bumalid, 9; Anthony Bumalid, 11; and Adelaida Goyo, 6.

Eight students no longer reported for classes in Sampaloc National High School. Two of them—Ayrlyn Bel-or, 15, and Emilson Ahiapas, 16,—died in Binyagan.

The others—Ruth Adolfo, 14, Ben Marcelo, 13, Joy Ann Ana, 14, Jerome Cayat, 15, Senia Juan, 13, and Joallyn Lorayan, 12—died in Little Kilangan.

Gift of life

During prayers at Pugalo Elementary School, Dadila said everyone should be thankful for the gift of life.

"Look at the person beside you and say thank you since you are here," the priest said.

The flag ceremony and the prayers over, Arew and the teachers asked the pupils from Little Kilangan to remain.

At least 78 children stayed and the teachers gave them each notebooks, sheets of paper and pencils that the teachers said they bought with their collaborators.

Symptoms of trauma

Arew said more students from Little Kilangan did not report for classes on Monday. He asked the teachers to observe students who may show symptoms of trauma.

"Watch them closely. Some may be crying bloodily," Arew said.

Imelda Claro, a music teacher, said she wanted her students to feel secure following the killer landslides.

Prayers for Ulysses

At Sampaloc National High School, Tapnio said the teachers had yet to submit attendance reports to see how many came from the two villages hit by the landslides.

Unicef's adviser, Lolita Gilbaj, told her students to pray for Ulysses. "Life must go on," she said.

In the classroom in Sampaloc National High School mathematics teacher Lee Pelias offered a message to one of his students who died: "If you are here, just sit with us, but don't say anything."

Seas, rising twice as fast, threaten world's cities

From page A1

coastal land and groundwater using, drawing drainage of the area's heavily polluted flood basin and eating away at the previous delta that forms the city's foundations.

Planners are close in addressing the threat in the apparent belief they have time. Instead, Shanghai has thrown its energies into constructing billions of dollars worth of new infrastructure—new parks, bridges, airports, industrial zones, right on the coast.

"By its means will Shanghai be under the sea 50 years from now. It won't be like the 'Day After Tomorrow' scenario," says Zhang Hongbo, a geologist who heads the School of Earth Science and Engineering at Nanjing University.

Scientifically, though, this is a problem whether we like it or not," Zhang says, pointing to areas along Shanghai's coast thought to be shrinking due to erosion caused by rising water levels.

Chinese legend credits fire-prone Yu the Great with taming floods in Neolithic times by dredging new river channels in almost reverse nature.

Sinking for decades

In modern times, however, Shanghai has been sinking for decades, thanks to pumping of groundwater and the construction of thousands of high-rise buildings.

Today, Shanghai's engineers are reinforcing flood gates and levees in riverside rivers rising due to heavy silting and subsidence.

"We need to play on the river banks and swim in the water when I was growing up. But the river is higher now," says Mr. Dinliang, an engineer overseeing Shanghai's main flood gate, pointing to houses below water level near the city's busiest downtown district.

Twice daily, the 100-meter-wide basins, where the city's Suzhou Creek empties into the Huangpu River, is raised and lowered to tandem with the tides and weather, regulating the city's vast labyrinth of canals and creeks.

The 5.86-meter-high flood gate is built to withstand a once-in-1,000 years tidal surge. The highest tidal surge that modern Shanghai has faced so far was 5.72 meters during a 1997 typhoon.

Levees along the flood and other major waterways are 6.9 meters high, providing better protection than in Miami, New York and many other cities.

But China's cities would still be swamped if they are hit by a surge like the 8.5-meter onslaught of Hurricane Katrina."

Bigger barriers mulled

Shanghai is considering building still bigger barriers—like those in London, Venice and the Netherlands—as fund off potentially disastrous storm surges, most likely at the point 20 kilometers downstream where the deep, muddy Huangpu empties into the Yangtze.

Jiang Baofang, deputy director of the Shanghai Flood Control Headquarters, has been to see the Thames Barrier, which protects London, and the Dutch storm series of storm barriers and dams in the Netherlands, where vast chunks of the population lives on land below sea level, much of it reclaimed from the sea.

Like many Chinese officials, some of whom deem the topic too sensitive to discuss, Jiang is cautious about what China might do.

"We are studying this, but it is enormously complicated," Jiang says as shots from surveillance cameras at dozens of flood gates flash on a hill wall screen.

"If the research determines that indeed the sea level will rise further, then we will need to build the walls higher. But this is still under research," he says.

Such projects usually require several decades of planning and construction, and with sea levels rising, they likely will have to be adjusted, given the unknown variables of climate change.

No adaptation plans

"Nobody—no municipal or provincial government, and no central government agency—is preparing adaptation plans for Shanghai or the Yangtze Delta," says Edward Lorton, whose Orinoco-based consultancy Climod Ltd. has published research on the issue.

"They must begin now, in conveyancy and decisions made today still have a major impact in the coming years," he says.

Nearly a quarter of mankind lives in low-lying coastal areas, and urbanization is drawing still more people into them.

"The tendency of coastal and port locations to become global gateways for architects and developers has become a global phenomenon in recent decades," says Gordon McGranahan, director of the human settlements group at the International Institute for Environment and Development, an independent think tank in London.

McGranahan helped author a 2007 report by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that put the numbers of people living in areas vulnerable to such flooding at 40 million people, with millions of dollars of homes and other assets at risk. By the 2070s, the number could rise to nearly 150 million, it says.

Precarious situation

Extreme weather will aggravate the already precarious situation for many cities.

In September, Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (International name: Parma) left 80 percent of Metro Manila under water. Newspaper photos later showed much of Hallow, on China's southern coast, flooded, as Vietnam evacuated more than 650,000 people from the storm's path.

In years to come, some Pacific islands, like tiny Tuvalu, are expecting complete inundation. Vietnam's environment ministry estimates that more than a third of the Mekong Delta, where nearly half the country's rice is grown, will be submerged if sea levels rise by 1 meter.

Impoverished Bangladesh is spending billions of dollars on dikes and storm shelters, while seeking international aid to help it adapt to flooding that could force up to 20 million of its people to relocate by 2050.

Though much of its land is arid, China likewise has millions of people living in densely populated tidal flats and coastal valleys, who already must be evacuated during typhoons. Many of the country's biggest cities are threatened, the OECD report says.

"What has been specific to China has been the enormous rural-urban migration, unfortunately just at a time when it would have been better not to settle low elevation coastal areas," McGranahan said.

High water levels

Traces of former sea walls show that much of today's Shanghai, which sits between a flood basin and the sea, was under water or marshland until the 7th or 8th century AD. Over thousands of years, sediments deposited and solidified as water levels ebbed and rose.

In the future, communities unable to move may instead end up adapting buildings and infrastructure to accommodate higher water levels, says Hui-Li Lee, a landscape architect who is working on several projects in the region.

"There are many things we cannot account for, but if we know an area is going to flood, then we have to plan for that," Lee says.

"When we look at a map, we have to think that 50 years later or 50 years later everything will be below sea level."

RISING SEAS This Sept. 30, 2009, photo shows children looking for recyclable materials on the banks of the River Ganges in Calcutta, India. Sea levels rising because of global warming, along with increased storminess in the climate change, will expose tens of millions of people in the world's port cities to coastal flooding, says a report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Cops probe mall security agency

Frances Ai Al

The Ayala Group has beefed up security in Greenbelt 3, which resumed operations hours after the attack by robbers disguised as police bomb squad experts.

Tighter security

A statement issued by the mall owner and developer, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), said more thorough security measures "are in place to ensure mall and public safety."

"This is being done in close coordination with Makati City Hall and police authorities," ALI said, adding that the company was cooperating fully with the Philippine National Police with regard to the investigation.

"We assure the public that customer safety and security is paramount to all our malls," the ALI statement said.

A spokesperson said ALI could not reveal details of what the company described as "redundant" security measures it had put in place.

GMA concerned

"The President was very much concerned," Eduardo Matilla, police chief, Director Roberto Rosales, said in reply to an interview question.

Rosales confirmed that Mr Arroyo had ordered a police mobilization to the Greenbelt 3 in Makati City.

Chief Supt. Benjamil Mendiola, Eastern Police District (EPD) director, said the Greenbelt robbery served as a "wake-up call" to the whole police force otherwise preoccupied with relief operations in the wake of Tropical Storm "Undoy."

"We were busy with Undoy for the past few weeks but now we're going back 100 percent to normal police operations. Our police will be more visible now," he said in an interview.

With the approach of the Christmas season, Mendiola said the EPD would deploy police officers, mostly women, at major malls, including Megamall, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, The Podium, Star Mall and Robinson's Galleria, which is technically in Quezon City.

"These aren't just ordinary mobile patrols. They'll be stationed at every gate, although the mall security guards will still order one of frisking and bag inspection," he said.

Mendiola said the EPD's intelligence section would also coordinate with the Southern Police District on exchange information that could help solve the case.

ROBBERY SCENE Shoppers walk past the closed Rolex store at Greenbelt 3 in Makati City, which was robbed on Sunday. One of the five suspected robbers was killed during a shoot-out with barrios. ALEXANDER DIAZ

Police vow to secure other malls

By DJ Yap

POLICE YESTERDAY VOWED to secure the Megamall and other major shopping centers in the country, shortly after thieves disguised as police bomb experts robbed a Rolex store in Greenbelt 3 in Makati City.

Chief Supt. Benjamil Mendiola, Eastern Police District (EPD) director, said he had placed under investigation the entire personnel of a security agency manning the Greenbelt 3 mall.

Similar mall personnel at Eastern Security Agency failed to observe "standard operating procedures" in dealing with men brandishing long firearms and posing as policemen.

"For instance, the watchmen should have scanned the armed men upon seeing that they slightly fit from a private vehicle and not a police mobile car," he said.

Rosales criticized the 22 watchmen detailed at Greenbelt 3 at the time for their supposed failure to help out the men police escorts of Tagaytay City bet presidents, including a woman, who purportedly belonged to a band of robbers masquerading as policemen.

The National Capital Regional Police (NCRPO) yesterday said it

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Focus on substance

THE RECENT SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS SURvey showing Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III getting the approval of 60 percent of respondents in a nationwide survey as the best successor to President Macapagal-Arroyo should make him the frontrunner for 2010. But it doesn't mean that the presidency is in the bag for him. It merely means that he has the best chances of winning.

EDITORIAL

By and large, however, the number is impressive. Undoubtedly, it should give pause to those wishing to contest the presidency next year. If the election were boxing, it would mean that all the other boxers could gang up on Noynoy, and he could still deal all of them a knockout blow. This early, the SWS findings should make the other laggard candidates start to consider whether to throw in the towel. And the fight hasn't even started yet.

Easily what could be read into the survey results is the "Cory Magic" lingering and weaving a powerful spell even if the source of the magic is already dead. The death of President Corazon Aquino last Aug. 1 and its aftermath have become an occasion not only for the biggest outpouring of Filipino national grief since Pope John Paul II and Jaime Cardinal Sin died one after the other in 2005, it has also forged a national solidarity that now appears to have gone beyond her funeral. That magic, as well as the memory of Noynoy's father, Ninoy the national martyr, was decisive in landing him in the Senate in 2007. Now that Cory is dead, her name has become even more hallowed, her magic even more potent. It appears set to catapult her only son to the presidency.

The outpouring of grief and affection for Cory has also been the result of comparative dynamics that pit memories of her tainted person and her brave leadership during the tumultuous democratic transition of the 1980s against the present dispensation that is characterized by corruption, violence, crimes in high places that go unpunished, insensitivity, cynicism and utter lack of public confidence toward government and its functionaries. The petty retrenchmentwise of the Arroyo administration in withdrawing the security detail usually accorded by the state to a former president only made it clear to the public that this government has *always* considered Cory its enemy. Now it has to contend with her ghost and her powerful memory in the person of her only son. Shades of Marcos desperately fighting the shade of Ninoy as embodied in the latter's widow!

But despite his impressive approval rating and the public perception that the ramrod of his tainted parents has passed on to him, Noynoy risks blowing his chances and depriving the people of an alternative in this administration's corruption if he does not get his act together. This would involve not only raising the money to fund an expectedly very expensive election and unifying the Liberal Party in order to fashion it into a credible electoral machine that would deliver the votes. More importantly, it would involve crafting a political platform that is democratic, relevant, effective and one that would unify rather than further divide, Filipinos. Noynoy should now focus on substance and its expression.

Noynoy, of course, is the best medium of his message: he is his own best personality. But he should disabuse the public of the notion that he is "nice" but lightweight, a little less glib than his father and famous show-biz sister but with some of the former's substance and the latter's entertainment value. This would involve nothing less than a presidential endeavor.

It would also involve identifying his base and consolidating it, not risking alienating real and potential sources of support. He seems to have overlooked this when he crossed swords with Ricardo Cardinal Vidal over the latter's statement urging Congress to go easy on the controversial Reproductive Health Bill and to have an open mind on the criticism of the Church that the bill has shades of Marcos' draconian family planning program (the "ideal" family size should be "two," but this is "not compulsory" the bill confusingly says) and that it's really a fertility-control program masquerading as a health measure to stop dangerous pregnancies. Noynoy made rather pointed remarks against the Church's position that could be potentially damaging to his candidacy, considering the power of the bishops.

The campaign will surely be one big learning opportunity for him, and he should start learning now.

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Resurgent hope

VIEWPOINT

Jean L. Mercado

LAGAYAN DE ORO—THE TOP FOR THE RIGHT go public as Generation Edsa-ites Emilio and Ronald Puno cordially reminded, himself, Sen. Benigno Aquino III (before endorsed an already commanding lead in his unpublicized campaign for the presidency). Social Weather Stations' latest survey reveals.

Other presidential hopefuls also thought Aquino's lead stemmed from a "bubble" synthesizing from the outpouring of people's grief and affection after former President Corazon Aquino's death. But the second SWS survey results that Aquino's rating is "hard stuff," Armando Doronila recently observed.

It is also nationwide. Why? Because this event is not just about "yellow ribbons," says social anthropologist Melba Padilla Maggay. Here is a "resurgence of hope," asserts the incisive Jesuit-bred Ateneo Church and Culture chair. An abridged version of Maggay's views paper, "A Politics for Penance" follows:

I felt that the signature campaign for Noynoy Aquino was a throwback to Gospel distance like personalism. But seeing the announcement of Noynoy's candidacy on TV, I was unaccountably moved to tears.

It wasn't it was feeling of nervousness from Ed sa's barricades. Rather, it was the sense that, once again, high and low are dosing ranks in the face of the country's degradation to historic levels of moral and institutional (decay), under the Arroyo regime. There is in our citizenry a deep wellspring of decency, honor and love of country that may yet bring us to a new phase in our quest for a governance that truly serves the people.

Only because of the perverse language of "realpolitics." (The second) is the almost quixotic persistence of hope.

Sen. MacArthur fell and withdrew in favor of Aquino. Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, then Sen. Francis Pangilinan, followed suit. These gestures are not only a resurrection of party discipline, but the rise of a new breed of politicians able to set aside personal ambitions.

The elite hijacked "People Power," but its unique set is authentic expression of what our people are: bravely emotional, we are moved, not so much by ideology or platforms, but by people, particularly by those who evoke solidarity and a shared sense of injustice.

Shared identity surfaces when we feel a collective injury, whether it be for Flor Contemplacion or Ninoy Aquino. The massive outpouring of grief on Cory's passing (expressed) hopes for a lodera democracy she helped establish and symbolized.

"Cory Magic"—as media nonchalantly call it "faith" or *a people's longings for decent governance*. She was did not a corrupt regime. In showing up for her funeral, the people made a statement on what this current administration is not.

[illegible]

Almost a decade ago, Maggay wrote, "Lily Ahmad? Marcos resisted the limits of political oppression and our capacity to endure. Sonia do sure the limits of moral corruption and our capacity to be pained to indignation."

The economic limits broke over "Hyatt-gate" the time honored truth that no society can survive without a minimum of moral sense."

In 2010, Maggay noted the people's refusal to heed "murky plots" of the ruling elite. In her paper "Kabayanihan and the Search for a Moral Center in Our Time," she mentioned: "The leaders have alienated themselves from the people by their utter lack of integrity."

President Arroyo went on to squander the gift of the presidency by serial abuses. Maggay saw that betrayal in Mr. Arroyo's harried promise of "healing" Mendiola from a plaque commemorating "Chung grace," she wrote. The Gwenap pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer realized that phrase shortly before his execution by the Gestapo.

"The President's 'love and easy pardon ... is cheap grace. [It] signals that the powerful can commit a heinous crime and run free because their tolerant neighbors see those who are really in power as sources of legitimacy... Without justice, compassion becomes sanctimony and sinks this nation ever deeper into moral rot."

"Filipinos know their hope is a person they trust," Maggay adds. "We have structures in place, from checks and balances to prohibitions of political dynasties. Bind without values, structures merely advance interests of those in power."

We are witnessing today not the politics of personalism but the power of the personal. People are not drawn to Noynoy because of personal charisma. He is not experienced or even readily appealing.

But he has a legacy that people trust. "Kahit paano, 'yung mga Aquino, di 'yan magnanakaw," he is reminded. "Di nga."

The trait has simplicity, not the usual garnetau that catapults leaders to power. So this was soon, he may yet connect with those whose major concern is not justice but that the country will not be robbed blind again.

Social trust is an intangible that calls the machinery of governance. Its re-fashioning does not invest in a country where unofficial rules substitutes for straightforward contracts. And, cites fail when the trust is so low that people cannot believe in social agreements.

Thus, sociologists talk of "plausibility structures" for governance. Impersonal necessities of governance make it implausible for people to pay a premium on the personal. That is generators in the West.

"But it is not necessarily capacity, or even what we need," Maggay says. "Our systems dysfunction precisely because there is no culture fit with how things actually work around here.

"The instincts of our people are right. Power tends itself to sound conservative and often it is in the hands of those who are most disinterested in its use. There is nothing wrong with our culture or with the expectations of our people. What is wrong is that our leaders consistently betray them and their hopes."

(E-mail: jeanlmercado@gmail.com)

'Filipino resilience'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT'S THE ONE PHRASE I'VE BEEN HEARing in the order of Imelda "Undoy" and Imperial, plus "Popoy," the "resilience of the Filipino." Popoy Lagman follows suit. Talk of it, heaping praises to the capacity of the Filipinos to overcome adversity with so small amount of grace. Indeed, to his capacity to overcome himself and rise to his finest form in times of the greatest travail, showing courage beyond the call of self-preservation, showing heroism beyond the call of self-sacrifice.

The suggestion is the indomitability of the human spirit. And true enough, you find it everywhere in the Filipino, particularly in the way he responds to disasters. It's not just how he manages any calamities we are given to send to the rest of the victims, it's how the victims themselves respond to their ravaging.

I was floored the reaction of the American soldiers who were stunned at the sight of kids grinning from ear to ear when they came to give relief. A picture of it appeared on one front page a couple of weeks ago. Granted they were kids, and kids have a different take on war and flood, and granted they were about to become recipients of goods, and granted we just threw 800 GIs but from Uncle Sam, the sight was still incongruous. Certainly that was not the sight that greeted the relief givers in New Orleans in the aftermath of "Katrina." Grandstanders, much less chest-thumpers, were not the criterion the victims registered on their faces, or gave the relief givers to understand. That was true for men, women, and children.

A great deal of the Filipino's response, I guess, owes to his sense of humor. Notably of the gallows kind. I've seen it in text jokes about the most horrible things. The scraps 9/11, the many scandals that have rocked government, the death of Corazon Aquino (the last though at GMA's expense, not Cory's), and so on. The Filipino is not beyond looking death in the face, and laughing at it.

And a great deal of the Filipino's response, I guess, owes as well to his tenacity. My favorite example there is the heroic figuring that originated in the Americans during the dollar at the beginning of their occupation to wear transparent shirts so they could see how their bodies underneath them. Eventually, by dint of refashioning and embroidering the indoor garment the thing went from shirt to blouse. The badge of national shame became the badge of national honor. That's a pretty brilliant way to respond to adversity.

You see that as well in the scratchers outside (but poor artists have fashioned basic garbage into marvelous, magnificent sculptures. You see that in the way the hills of Pampanga made mini sculptures out of lahar: it is indomitability of the human spirit.

There is, however, also a downside to the "resilience of the Filipino."

The Filipino is able to take in his stride and in more of outrageous fortune because that is his natural lot in life. So to poor he is abject, he has nothing, she has learned to fend off the abuse and arrows of outrageous fortune because those things and worse have been raining as his every day of the life. Fearless makes perfect, a lifetime of handling adversity makes for skill and ability.

I almost left off my near laughing when Mahatma Bag learned early this year that the Philippines had managed the feat of the global recession, thanks to a resilient economy and a resilient people. Resilience, my ass. The only reason we have been spared the effects of global recession is that we are already recession. We have been recession for so long as to get recession genes, a right brain during Cory's time, when the goodwill the country earned with people flower produced second growths, and during Fidel Ramos' time, when capitalism surged with the fall of socialism, until the Asian financial crisis of 1997 which left us the country like Ondoy.

Not quite incidentally, we too were the least harmed by that financial crisis compared to our Asian neighbors, who were bitterly ravaged by it. The reason being that we were too backward to be so battered. But unlike neighboring folk in the hinterlands who manage to "survive" tenaciously.

The other face of resilience is a long-suffering people. Or worse, the other face of resilience is an uncomplaining people. Religion may have to do with it, with its promises of a better life in heaven in exchange for a passive one on earth. Colonialism may have to do with it, the experience of being oppressed imbedded deep in the national psyche, making people think it is their natural lot in life. But that's the part where I get bothered by that phrase, "Filipino resilience," especially when chanted by government and the media like zombies, or platitude, it sounds like honoring the people. Better mind the pun, you'll always get by.

This is not particularly for the poor. Because resilience has certain collaborators like bodoy, which range both rich and poor, typhoons and floods tend to ravage largely the poor, the ones protected only by the fruition of mats from the howling winds; the ones who lie in the path of mudslides and lahar, having nowhere else to go; the ones who have to live in dying creeks and esteros, where they've strewed after having been driven away from every available empty space beside government buildings.

That's when the phrase "the resilience of the Filipino" becomes really grating: you see it on official and TV announcements alike, video on smoking issues. What I hear in the interstices of those words is: "It's okay. You're precious little to how anyway you can always build again. Just learn from the disastrous customs and practices that made you unchildless. You've done it before, you can do it again. You're resilient."

Maybe it's time the Filipino stopped being resilient. Maybe it's time he got bloody furious.

Need to modernize RP

FOLLOWING THE SEVERE DRAINING OF THE water release from various dams called by Senate Majority leader Juan Ponce Enrile, I was struck by how many politicians tried to sound like scientists while some economists tried to sound like politicians. I found it refreshing that the senate was eager not to touch its pigeon blame, as is fashionable these days, but to "find solutions to problems." The hearings brought out the fact that numerous dams in the country are in need of rehabilitation problem in the dam area. It's evident that the national need is to acquire First World communications equipment for the entire area, including power so this instead of using his and hoist's to end people from about an impending water release.

* * *

This brings me to the objection articulated here months ago, when Congressman Raf Mark Lacson-Noel, a member of the committee on Nuclear Energy, Power Plant. At the hearings, he favored for nuclear technology as "far safer" in generating power than the hidden electric systems in Luzon. The problem is that, as pointed from even First World countries, nuclear power is not perfect, and Filipinos do not yet have the necessary technical discipline and needed framework to operate a technology as complicated—and potentially dangerous—as nuclear power unlike the Japanese, Americans and Germans. First we have to modernize the Philippine state, which remains so Third or even Fourth World in many respects and only after we have sufficiently modernized should we aspire to such a technology.

Besides, there are many aspects that have to be studied here, such as its expensive uranium fuel, decommissioning and safe waste disposal.

* * *

Answers in the Nationalist People's Coalition account that last Oct. 12 party members assisted the arrival of founder Eduardo Cojuangco at its club house in Quezon City to resolve the problem of having convened two conventions, but he didn't show up. Let it be way quoted as saying he was leaving to tackle his own party, so...it's free for all. The two of him, Francis Escudero, came into question since his candidacy hinges mainly on Cojuangco's support.

* * *

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* * *

Answers

LETTERS

The poor, scapegoat for the greed of a few

TROPICAL STORM "ONDOY" HAS DARED [illegible] the country when government once again blamed poor families...estimated to number about 30,000 (600,000 men, women and mostly children)—for the unprecedented flooding.

The government has prohibited these poor families from returning to their homes from the evacuation centers. Cleaning officials talk publicly about entering all 66,000 families and relocating them outside the city for their jobs and home services.

These government actions are based on the belief that the poor caused the floods by blocking the rivers and drains with their bodies. Not coincidentally, these were other explanations for the flooding. Architects, geologists and urban planners attributed the disaster to the fact that Manila is urbanized at three times the density of Tokyo and is much more complex. Cabinet and city officials countering with developers to relax their setback (planning rules, deforested and paved hill mountains around Metro Manila, illegal structures, faulty laws, and the city officials who ignored the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992, which mandates that there is no more land for social housing, if city had been done 17 years ago, there would be fewer families on the riverbanks and esteros.

The poor are not guilty in Manila, but they are a huge difference between the poor and the elite. Elitists countering with developers. The latter exhales the low-tax gain, condoned by greed. The poor live on the shabby waterways because they have to. They are there to survive and would gladly move to relocation center in the city if somehow they would get back and find their own job sites. They are not necessarily opposed to relocation, but they are opposed to evictions and relocation that are ill-timed and violate the Constitution and international covenants and laws.

We ask for two things. First, no government resembles an independent board of inquiry to look into the basic causes of the flooding. We will then know how the main violators of the environment are. The study can recommend also the penalization of in-city relocation for the poor on the waterways.

Secondly, we ask government not to evict poor people until we have an explanation for what actually went wrong and until there are fully prepared and discussed plans.

The urban poor will resist evictions and relocation that violate their law and further impoverish them.

This just shows the poor the scapegoats for the greed of the avaricious and powerful. They are poor people making the streets looking for rice for their families. Don't add to their suffering.

—JOSEPH FRANCIS LACSAMANA, media advocacy officer, Task force anti-Asian violence (TAVI), Community Organizers Multisectoral (COM), Community Organization of the Philippine Enterprise (COPE), Foundation Urban Poor Associates (FUPA), 23-A Mahaday St., Barangay Central 41, Diliman, Quezon City

Climate change plans should be redirected

IF INDEED FLOODS ARE CAUSED BY GLOBAL climate change, then our concern should focus not how to confront its local impact instead of worrying about reducing carbon emission. While governments can attend to the immediate needs of disaster victims, planning for the expected, unexpected calamities should involve our scientists. I am not referring to officials of our science and technology departments or MAP academia.)

One long-term scientist as a poor country should also address the issue of climate impact on agriculture and the spread of diseases like malaria and dengue fever. There will be the same scenario for us, now is the time for serious planning, not when the crisis comes. Many studies on these are available, climate-related diseases are being intensified in other countries. Our scientists can make follow-up studies on how they can be adapted to produced conditions in our country and minimize their harmful effects. Educators will have to make the needed curricular changes at all levels of education.

We should stop the the following ill-advised measures we have embarked on as responses to climate change:

1. Biofuel programs. Technologies for energy production could use of biofuels are still raising global questions, particularly their negative impact on agriculture and the environment. These have been chosen from the experiments of some countries and repeated in excess scientific research, let us wait for new technologies on alternative sources of energy which will be developed by other countries which have many and more qualified researchers.

2. Programs and campaigns against carbon emissions. The programs should be on preparing the public for the climate impact. Our national contribution to the increase of global warming is a mere 0.3 percent, against the 60 percent of the United States and China. Hence, reducing our carbon emission is not part of our concern; the more urgent and practicable as is to continue our fossil fuel-dependent economic programs. This is still environmentally cost-effective and justified even if we increase our carbon emissions several times and continue to be the world's top devastated of offending fuel.

3. Government spending on measurement, surveillance at international meetings. The information we need to mitigate climate impact is available on the Internet.

It is time for serious planning—with food and diseases on top of the list. Let us not wait for the crisis.

—FLORA LACANILAO, retired professor of marine science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

Noynoy is either Catholic or non-Catholic

THIS IS IN REACTION TO RAUL C. PANGALANGAN's letter, 'If criticism rules!' Stand firm against Fiser! Shoulder fire."

Now and foremost, reason distinguishes man from animals. In philosophy, man is a rational being, animals are irrational. Animals are guided by instincts and feelings. Man is guided by reason, and as a Christian, man is ruled by faith, hope and love.

The object of instinct and feelings is anything perceptible by the senses, the object of reason is universal truth, and the object of faith is supernatural, truly revealed truth. Truth is the conformity of the thing with the intellect. In Latin, *veritas sic conformitas se cum intellectus* (truth is the conformity of the thing with the intellect). Funny feeling saying is being attracted or unreasonable.

There is only one Catholic Church which is universal ever since. The one, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church founded by Jesus Christ, now headed by His vicar on Earth, Pope Benedict XVI. The Church upholds the teachings of Christ for God, and rejects anything against or change His teachings. The teachings of Christ and his Church are yin-yin.

Each and every Catholic, from the Pope to any simple lay man, is bound to abide by the teachings being taught by the Church. Anyone, devout who does not abide with the teachings 100 percent is not a genuine Catholic. He is a Catholic only in name. There is no multicreme or moderate Catholic. What I know is, one is not a Catholic or a non-Catholic.

Marjorie Aquino has the right to explain his side. But the explanation he gave is not right. The Reproductive Health bill has only 5% provisions. Hardly. Cardinal Vidal is right to diversifying bisexuality with a tendency to be sterile. The intention might be plausible, but the end or intention does not justify the means.

A person who exposes sound firm, and with conviction, on his faith cannot be trusted. A person who is not afraid of offending God. Who will ultimately judge him on the basis of his actions, will certainly, 100 percent, offend the rights and feelings of human beings who causes no wrongdoing.

—SEN. FR. ROBERT S. CHRUZ, FCJ, Vice Rector/Faith Mission, Bukidnon Street, Sapa Bantay, Quezon City

Cardinal Vidal's double-standard morality

I SAY, "BY 'SI SE' CHE, SEE RIMAN RE-specific, but I must admit that I worked with singer when I saw Manila Cardinal Vidal on TV, threatening to tell people not to vote for Noynoy Aquino because the latter supports the Reproductive Health bill. He also said that those who have the same stand as Noynoy will be denied sacraments and support from the Church.

The cardinal is not supporting bisexuality because of a "tendency," yet he continues to subscribe to immorality, support and remain blindly loyal to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who has dilutes have called evil and a blink, and who chose and lie and steal and tolerate the enormous killings of innocent civilians. So who is more and this? The regime which has caused countless killings and human rights violations or person whose only mistake, if mistake it is, is to [illegible] support, in good faith, a bill he felt?

And was it not Cardinal Vidal who ordered the priests in Cebu not to say Mass for Jun Lozada? And what made him think (still no word for Noynoy because he did not? The last time I looked, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines should stop debating themselves that they will have influence over the millions of Filipinos who continue to manifestly cling to their faith despite the corruption in the Church.

I would say that the Church has become the biggest peddler of corrupt politicians who, for as long as they continue to be generous to the Church, will continue to remain protected sons in disorder. As for the not so generous faithful, the Church will reserve for them the disciplined and broken pews.

How many people has the cardinal converted in his life as a priest? Isn't it a fact that many Catholics are leaving the Church?

I am not leaving the Church, but I have resolved to continue to denounce the abuses of our Church leaders who, in the first place, are the single biggest reason the country is in its present condition.

Cardinal Vidal's assertion of morality allows him to continue to blindly support the enemies of the people, dispossession, and yet he is so quick to raise a furor against Noynoy for his support of the RH bill, he whose name has never been associated with any shenanigan. His name are really single.

—AUGUSTO BONZON, abonzon@yahoo.com

Build evacuation centers for typhoon victims

[illegible] AUGUSTO, WE NEVER LEARN. Every year, Filipinos the heroism of typhoons. Yet, we ignore the lessons we have learned from during previous calamities.

Some time in 2000, I wrote the Senate president and speaker of the House of Representatives suggesting the construction of permanent and strong evacuation centers where people can take shelter before a typhoon (which can be forecast three days before) comes ashore. These centers should have a ready supply of food and should be equipped with generators. Each center should have an assigned team of doctors who should report there during and/or after typhoons. The members of Congress and the president of the Philippines should give their part based for one year to build these centers. I doubt that suggestion in 2000, but nothing has happened until now.

Malacañang spent $600 billion to construct an effective drainage system. Here in the Philippines, our leaders are busy stealing our money. Hindi na talaga tayo. Maybe the people in Ulaan deserve the destruction brought by "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

—A. EMMANUEL C. FERNANDEZ, 139 Gonzales Bldg., Finance Section, General Luna St.

PhilHealth Advisory

PhilHealth

No. 10-08-2009

Submission of the Baseline Benchbook Self-Assessment of Hospitals - Extended!

In view of the damage and interruption of hospital operations brought about by typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng, the deadline for submission of the baseline Benchbook self-assessment of hospitals in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, CAR and NCR is extended until November 9, 2009.

Hospitals in affected areas shall submit the accomplished self-assessment tools, score sheets and Benchbook self-assessment summary, which comprise Manual II, to their respective PhilHealth Regional Offices on or before the deadline.

Submission of other Benchbook requirements and related activities shall push through as originally scheduled and disseminated during the recent regional Benchbook orientations.

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14 mayors under watch for drugs–Sotto

BEATING THE WEATHER
Farmers take advantage of the good weather as they use a threshing machine to harvest their palay in Barangay Sarao, Mapandan, Pangasinan.

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—FOURTEEN OF the country's mayors were placed under close watch because of their alleged involvement in illegal drug activities, Dangerous Drugs Board Chair Vicente "Tito" Sotto II said on Saturday.

Sotto, who was in Bacolod with his family for the Masskara Festival during the weekend, said these mayors included two from the Visayas, two from Metro Manila and five from Mindanao while the rest were from Luzon.

Sotto noted though that there was no mayor in Metro because the number comprised less than one percent of the total number of municipal and city mayors in the Philippines.

The Philippines has over 1,500 municipal and city mayors. However, Sotto did not disclose the names of these mayors.

Sotto also said they also have the names of barangay captains, law enforcers and even prosecution personalities on their watch list.

He added that they have already submitted their watchlist to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We are closely monitoring these and if they are proven guilty of the allegations, we will put them behind bars," Sotto said.

He said the names of these personalities were included in their search for based on information gathered by their action center in Metro Manila to monitor those involved in illegal drug activities and to receive information from concerned citizens.

The DDB was also comparing their watchlist with that of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces and the other intelligence units nationwide, he added.

Sotto also said that while they were not well funded, their campaign against illegal drugs has gained grounds.

He also disclosed that the Philippines ranked third in the world as far as the number of clandestine shabu laboratories was concerned.

The DDB dismantled 23 big and small shabu laboratories, mostly in Luzon, in coordination with other government agencies this year, he added.

Sotto said the DDB has eradicated marijuana plantations in Cebu, Benguet, Davao Del sur and La Union provinces.

He said the board was now targeting the marijuana plantations in Bukidnon and Lanao provinces in Mindanao.

Baguio requires geologist's OK for new buildings

BAGUIO CITY—RESIDENTS WHO NEED to rebuild their houses destroyed by the onslaughts of Tropical Depression "Pepeng" must first get the approval of a geologist.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the city council agreed to require all developers to submit an environmental impact assessment and geological hazard review of their properties.

Cordelia Larcamenta, city environment officer, said an environmental survey should have been integrated in the process of securing building permits.

Bautista disclosed the new requirement last week, after announcing that the city government would relocate people living on properties that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau had declared dangerous.

Amended ordinances

The council said it would enact amendments to the land-use and zoning ordinances to include this new rule.

While awaiting the amended ordinances, Bautista said he would stop the issuance of permits for structures being rebuilt in four villages hit by landslides.

The city government, however, has increased its calamity assistance to typhoon victims, from P100,000 to P500,000, if their houses are assessed to be beyond repair, said Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda.

The council also raised the cash assistance, from P10,000 to P30,000, to families of typhoon fatalities. Relatives of government or volunteer rescuers who were killed in the line of duty are entitled to P500,000.

Review of development projects

Larcamenta said a review of all development projects would help zoning officials rule on projects that could endanger residents and property around the project site.

Bautista said a geological assessment could also guide the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which issued titles to the properties despite past flooding or landslides in those areas.

Bautista said the city government last week refused to concur with the DENR's decision to approve 33 forest-use titles applications (FSU) for properties in the City Camp Lagoon. Public lands in the city are part of a town-site reservation and are sold by auction.

Houses in the City Camp Lagoon were submerged under 20 feet of floodwater when Pepeng unleashed heavy rains on Oct. 8.

Bautista said the MGB had declared that areas hit by massive landslides in Ceresencia Village and in Barangays Irisan, Mirisa, Balsalobre Crowsel, Pinsao Proper, Loacan, Upper Rock Quarry and Aurora Hill were no longer habitable.

"No, I won't be issuing permits to rebuild houses there anymore," he said.

The MGB also warned Dantes to abandon the threat of landslides in Barangay Quirino Hill and of flooding in four villages along the Bakil River, near the city's boundary with La Trinidad town. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

HOTDOG ON STICKS

SERVING GREAT HOTDOGS SINCE 1984

Cooking up 25 years of Success

In cooking up a successful business venture, very few recipes involve adding patience, perseverance and love as secret ingredients to success. But one couple did just that to nurture and transform their dream business into a thriving and bustling brand name throughout the years - surviving hardships and trials to emerge as the household name Hotdog on Sticks!

1984 marked the darkest year in the country's history with the assassination of Senator Ninoy Aquino, resulting in a rapidly deteriorating economy and a chaotic political landscape. Foreign investors had begun to take flight as exchange rates skyrocketed, and to many local businessmen, the times felt too uncertain, the fires too hot to cook up any promising business opportunity.

Rene and Amy, however, were a young couple full of hope and dreams, looking toward building a future together, but given the state the country was in, both knew that they would need more than just their salaries as employees in order to start their new family.

Not allowing the bleak reality of a country in turmoil to affect their optimism, the young couple decided to use part of the wedding money that they had saved up to finance a small venture. Their business recipe was plain and simple - answer the Filipino's penchant for food by selling simply hotdogs and barbecues on sticks.

So on the 20th of October 1984, the couple opened their business to the public, a bold decision that most experienced businessmen at that time would not make. Many of their friends were skeptical of their decision to lease a 4-square meter space at Harrison Plaza in Ermita, Manila, thinking that selling hotdogs alone would not generate enough profit to cover all operating expenses. And for the first few weeks, this reality seemed certain as the sales of their first Hotdog on Sticks stall registered only a mere trickles. The business appeared to be in trouble from the very start.

But undaunted, the two forged on, literally working their way up, personally manning the cash register during their off-hours at work and personally delivering the goods to their store. They carefully studied the progress of their business, using their love for each other as an added ingredient to their recipe, a stop-gap measure to bolster them during periods of disappointing sales results.

Thus defying the odds and doomsayers, the store's sales began to steadily improve. Eventually Hotdog on Sticks became a lucrative business, allowing the couple to enjoy sales that rose from three to five figures consistently in the following months. So much so that by the time the couple's original wedding date neared, the money that they had invested in the store had exceeded the profits generated. Thus, Rene and Amy were able to push through with their wedding plans, confident that the business that they had built on hope, dreams and love would continue to grow.

Gradually the business began to pick up, with Hotdog on Sticks weathering even more trials that scared off more established restaurant brands. The couple began to see the light at the end of the tunnel, as the profit from their hard work began to materialize.

Hotdog on Sticks' success also gained the attention of several malls, including SM, Ayala, Robinsons and Galleria, offering better leases on spaces - signaling the beginning of the growth of the Hotdog on Sticks brand. The couple also began to work on the business full time, nurturing its expansion through the years. Like culinary chefs, they began to streamline their recipe to success, adding even more ingredients, such as better designed stalls, more product variants and well-trained staff to bolster the brand's strengths.

The brand's long standing partnership with SM Mall's tycoon Henry Sy also became an additional ingredient to the continuing success of Hotdog on Sticks. Like the couple, Henry Sy also took a huge risk building his SM North Edsa mall during the crisis years and valued greatly the trust and confidence given to him by his initial tenants. Since Hotdog on Sticks was one of the first to establish its presence in the new mall, the tycoon rewarded those who took the risk with him by offering Hotdog on Sticks and the other founding tenants of SM North Edsa with first options in the other SM Malls that were built throughout the years. Thus, Hotdog on Sticks began to grow and establish a strong presence wherever one finds an SM Mall, expanding its store patrons to include mall shoppers and supermarket patrons.

Now, 25 years later, that small hotdog stall in Harrison Plaza has grown into more than 150 branches all over the country. The logo and brand name of Hotdog on Stick's has become a household name in malls and supermarkets. Widely recognized by families, common office workers and even students, the store's branches have become a convenient stop-over for affordable snacks and quick lunches. The brand is now also a prominent fixture in special events and even kiddie parties.

Adding more variety to Hotdog on Sticks' selection, the brand even partnered with international sausage manufacturers like the American brand Nathan's. Currently, Hotdog on Sticks' also offers products of Johnsonville Foods, the Wisconsin-based sausage producer touted as America's largest, specializing in making varieties of bratwurst and Italian sausages. Well known and well-loved, the Johnsonville sausage products are sold in 16 NFL stadiums all over America and in 39 countries, including France, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Hongkong, China and now available in the Philippines through Hotdog on Sticks.

And with the celebration of its 25th year, Rene and Amy would like to unveil several new recipes to spice up their dream business with a virtual feast of opportunities in the challenging years ahead not only for themselves but also for other small business dreamers and risk takers at heart.

Their newest salvo in the fourth quarter of 2009 comes with Big City, a casual dining version of Hotdog on Sticks, complete with seating and an expanded menu selection. The new brand introduces to the upscale market the unique dining pleasure that made Hotdog on Sticks such a resounding success. With venue spaces ranging from 20-50 square meters and seating for up to 30 people, Big City will allow casual diners to enjoy their favorite selection at Hotdog on Sticks variants, Johnsonville grilled sausage and grilled burger selections, meal choices featuring pastas and all-day breakfast fares. And with a name like Big City popping up in SM Cebu, SM

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people. Big City will allow casual diners to enjoy their favorite selection of Hotdog on Sticks variants, Johnsonville grilled sausage and grilled burger selections, meal choices featuring pastas and all-day breakfast fares. And with a name like Big City popping up in SM Cebu, SM North Annex, Robinson's Ermita, Mall of Asia and SM The Block, it would not be surprising to see the new brand become as big a hit as Hotdog on Sticks.

But the most exciting move to be announced by the couple is the opening of the business to cluster franchising. This new development truly proves that the Hotdog on Sticks recipe for success is ready to be deployed as a business system, with even neophyte investors and businessmen being able to duplicate and enjoy the benefits and profits of the highly successful brand with the guidance of its creators. The cluster franchising system also ensures that those who wish to jump on the Hotdog on Sticks bandwagon will be able to enjoy their own expansion opportunities since they will have the option to grow the business in their respective franchise cluster areas.

Truly Hotdog on Sticks has much to celebrate about as it commemorates 25 years of serving delicious hotdogs to Filipinos all over the country.

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SPORTS

Typhoon-wary Pacman shifts training camp to Manila

By Roy Luarca

PACQUIAO: Not taking chances

WYNNE: Arboleda goes under Texas's Gilas' Mac Baracael, who falls on top of the Burger King guard. Arboleda, who was called for a flagrant foul on this play, then exits in the last [illegible]

Arboleda gets boot for rest of PBA season

By Mayang B. Castillo, Jane Nievares and Dennis U. Erasa, Inquirer Libre

Foreign aces seeing action in PCA Open

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Slingers upend RP Patriots

By Jasmine W. Payo

SLUGGERS: Philippine guard Al Vergara drives past Puerto Rican's Jayson Dixon (left) and Brandon Powell

Eagles seek Unigames repeat

By Cedolf P. Tigas

SEA Games qualifying tees off at Riviera

Phillies snatch 2-1 lead over Dodgers

PHILADELPHIA—PHILADELPHIA thumped the Los Angeles Dodgers, 11-0, on Sunday to snatch a 2-1 lead in the National League Championship Series.

Philadelphia starting pitcher Cliff Lee struck out 10 and allowed three hits over eight innings after the Phillies routed ace Vicente Padilla in the first.

Lee, a mid-season acquisition who won the American league Cy Young Award for Cleveland in 2008, did not give up a walk and allowed the Dodgers, the NL's best hitting team, only three singles once cold night. Dodgers slugger Manny Ramirez had two of the hits.

The win was the most lopsided postseason victory for Philadelphia.

Ryan Howard gave the World Series champions the perfect start with a two-run triple in the first.

The hit enabled the Philadelphia first baseman to celebrate at least one RBI in seven consecutive playoff games, a Major League best for one postseason.

Jayson Werth followed Howard with a two-run homer to center field to give the Phillies the four-run lead.

They added two more runs in both the second and fifth innings to stretch their advantage to 6-0 before Shane Victorino completed the rout with a three-run homer to the right.

The Dodgers pulled starting pitcher Hiroki Kuroda after less than two innings. Kuroda, who had not pitched since Sept. 28 because of a bulging disk in his neck, was charged with six runs and six hits while walking one man.

Howard had another RBI in the second on a groundout.

Game Four of the best-of-seven series is scheduled for Philadelphia on Monday. The Dodgers send Randy Wolf, a former Phillies pitcher, to the mound against Philadelphia right-hander Joe Blanton.

Reuters

PHILLIES hitter Shane Victorino (center) celebrates with teammates Cliff Lee (left) and Carlos Ruiz after his three-run home run in the eighth inning. —AP/JUA...

WORLD OF SPORTS

Detroit marathon claims lives of three participants

DETROIT—A WALT Disney World employee and two other runners died Sunday in the Detroit marathon on Sunday, organizers said.

Daniel Langdon, 30, of Langsburg, collapsed at about 9:30 a.m. between the 11- and 12-mile markers, Detroit Marathon Chairman Jack Heidt Hamburger, vice president of consumer marketing for the Detroit Media Partnership.

Rick Brown, 52, of Marietta, Ohio, collapsed at 9:17 a.m. near where Langdon went down, and 28-year-old Jon Weber of Waterford collapsed at about 9:15 a.m., just after finishing the half-marathon in 1:03:37.

Event coordinator Heather Brown said Langdon was participating in the 13.1-mile (21-kilometer) half-marathon or the full race.

Hamburger told the Free Press that there were at least six medical stations on the race course and that emergency personnel were on the scene within seconds.

The temperature was about 28 degrees (-2.22 Celsius) when the marathon started and had risen to 41 degrees (5 Celsius) by 10 a.m.

AP

Laird snares first crown

LAS VEGAS—BRITON MARTIN LAIRD beat American George McNeill on the third playoff hole to claim his first PGA Tour victory at the Las Vegas Open on Sunday.

Laird, who began the day outside the top 125 on the money list and in desperate need of good result to secure his playing card for next season, clinched the title with a par on the 18th while McNeill bogeyed it. Chad Campbell was the third challenger after the second playoff hole. The pair threw 11th at the 'PC Summer Invitational.

Laird earned $756,000 for his win and secured a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour. Last Thursday's final round threw under 68 to join McNeill (67) and Campbell (69) on 19-under 265. *Reuters*

Klitschko versus Johnson

GENEVA—IN THE HEAVYWEIGHT championship bout Wladimir Klitschko will defend his title in Hamburg on Dec. 12 against Kevin Johnson of The United States.

The 28-year-old Klitschko (39-0, 37 knockouts) defeated Ole Klemetsen last month on Los Angeles, winning after three-to-come wounded his man out for the 11th round.

Johnson is 20-0-1 with nine knockouts. At May, the 30-year-old American beat Dawn Fergus via a stoppage of undefeated fighters.

The fight is Klitschko's first title defense of the year. Having also beaten Juan Carlos Gomez via a ninth-round TKO in May.

AP

Bibat leads Johor qualifiers

JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA—MICHAEL Bibat of the Philippines will attack the opportunity to win shootdown against the best from the Asian Tour after he secured a spot at the Mercedes Johor Open starting on Thursday.

Bibat fired an impressive five-under par 67 for a two-stroke win at the Iskandar Johor Open Qualifier at the Palm Resort Golf & Country Club in Johor on Monday.

South Korea's Baek Seok-Hoon and Australian Andrew Pritchard, the coach to Asian Tour regulars Zaw Moe of Myanmar and Lam Chih-Bing of Singapore, also made it to the 108th million Asian Tour tournament after they finished matching Bibat.

Stags get title shot vs Lions

Down Heavy Bombers in KO tiff

By Cedrik P. Tupas

SAN SEBASTIAN'S RETURN TO ITS PEAK-some form couldn't have come at a better time.

Both women on the line, the Stags came out with all guns ablaze to pummel Jose Rizal University, 79-64, last night and clinch a finals berth for the first time in its season in the 85th NCAA basketball tournament at the FILOIL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Looking like the team that opened this season with a record 13 straight wins, the Stags used their running game to gain control early and hold off the Bombers with their defense.

"The players responded to the challenge," said the Stags' rookie coach Aric Aguilla, whose team lost its twice-to-beat edge in the Final Four after a 63-72 loss to JRU last Friday.

"I could feel their eagerness to win since yesterday. I'm happy they followed the game plan to the letter."

The Stags, who came back to back titles from 2001, battle downtime defending champion San Beda in the best-of-three finals starting Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Lions have won two of their three meetings with the Stags this season.

Calvin Abueva came off the bench to post 16 points and four blocks, while Jimbo Aquino stuck after a suspension, finished with 14.

The Stags caught the Bombers flatfooted in the first 10 minutes. Triples by Anthony Ott Ilao and Aquino set off a 15-4 burst, including a span of 10 unanswered points for the Stags, who scored 23 point leads four times.

San Sebastian 79—Chipeco 12, Suarez 11, Harris 5, Sangalang 8, Pascual 2, Ilao 10, Dionisio 1, Tagaytayan 4, Ott Ilao 7, Aquino 14, Abueva 16, Lao 0, Cruz 0, Ebona 0, Agosto 3, Rodriguez 2, Galanza 0.

JRU 64—Sese 13, Apas 2, Gagate 2, Ibarra 4, Alfeche 2, Nio 11, Lazo 4, Dizon 5, Agosto 7, Rodriguez 7, Rodriguez 2, Galanza 0.

Quarters: 19-4, 36-25, 54-44, 79-64

JRU's Marvin Hayes fails to get past SSC's Calvin Abueva (right) and Anthony Ott Ilao.

Tigresses eye Shakey's V-L q'finals today

By Cedrik P. Tupas

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS SEEKS A quarterfinal slot even as newly-crowned NCAA titlist San Sebastian rushes to defeat today in the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference at the FILOIL Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Tigresses, who have settled into a playdate after struggling in their initial outing, take on Jessica Ostrozon at 4 p.m., seeking a fifth straight win and passage into the semi-round.

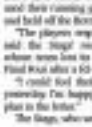
The defending champion Lady Stags, who completed a 2-1 series victory over the St. Benilde Lady Blazers for their fifth straight NCAA crown Sunday, get going against winless University of the Philippines in the outfitting at 6.

At Benilde-red Adamson tonight at 2 p.m.

The Tigresses are in for a rough fight with Aiza Pala, Bea Pascual, Kara Acevedo, Dei Gervacio, Melba Quinapio, Ville Cainglet, Gretchen Ho and guest player and former top hitter Chaser Soriano leading the Lady Eagles.

Ateneo is coming off a win over UE 25-23, 25-13, 25-15, last Tuesday.

The Tigresses' attack has been anchored by Alyssa Matics and Angeli Tabaquero in their outline roles over Adamson, FEU, Ateneo and UP.



SPORTSWATCH

Xavier downs Ateneo fives in SBP, Passerelle caging

ERMITA, SAN JUAN CITY—JUNIOR'S School of Engineer de Oro topped two Ateneo teams over the weekend to rise to the top of the Pamanella division of the Mikey sponsored SBP Passerelle basketball tournament Monday at the city gym here.

Xavier turned back Ateneo de Zamboanga, 60-54, on Francis Mac Rubio's undergoal dish in the closing seconds. Xavier posted its second straight win while making Ateneo de Zamboanga its second loss in the Passerelle class of the tournament organized by the BSDT Cardio.

Xavier earlier topped Ateneo de Davao, 64-58.

Ateneo de Davao later rebounded with a 76-63 flogging of Notre Dame of Dadiangas, 76-63, for an even 1-1 card.

Notre Dame shall Ateneo de Zamboanga its second defeat, 67-58, in another game.

In the Small Basketball Association division, Xavier outmatched Ateneo de Zamboanga, 68-62, and Notre Dame, 3-02, for its third win overall.

Barrios, 'NC' Finals coaches PSA Forum guests today

THE PSA FORUM FEATURES A SPECIAL session on basketball today's session at Shakey's Malvar with PBA community service Sonny Barrios and the protagonists in the NCAA men's finals as guests.

Barrios will tackle the topic bounding the pro-league's 35th season or the first part of the public sports program aired live over dzFM Sports Radio 918 and supported by Rebel Shoes, Pagcor, Shakey's and Accel.

Manuel Lim, coach of Benilde-San Sebastian champion San Beda Red Lions, and the mentor of the winner of the one-two duel between the Jose Rizal U Heavy Bombers and the San Sebastian Stags, discussion the coming title rumors on the second half of the season on the dial at 918 a.m.

The top-seeded Red Lions eliminated the Letran Knights Friday to make the NCAA finals for the fourth straight time.

PBA needs a working fire truck

THERE WAS A FEARSOME PICTURE in the papers last week of a burly PBA guard banging angrily through the special muggable section of the Araneta Coliseum.

The hemi-scared veteran, identified as Wynne Arboleda, was oblivious to a bottle lurch.

The son-in-law of the Burger King conjoiny owner Ben Lim, Arboleda already has the impression of a rugged enforcer's endorsers.

* * *

With his wild looks, not even a fire truck could've stopped Arboleda in his tracks.

There was rounder in his eyes.

Time enough, Arboleda swore on to sound a sorry PBA fan that **had allegedly been badmouthing him.**

The ringside incident was said to be an offshoot of a flagrant foul Arboleda had committed on Mac Belangel of the Smart Gilas national development squad.

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trinidad

* * *

The warning after the report on the standing came out, Arboleda and his team issued a public apology.

They also apologized to the victim, Alvin Ratigher, who was reportedly planning to file charges.

For the record, it was the third incident in a year involving a PBA player who went after a spectator.

PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios was still locked in an emergency meeting at press time to tackle the issue.

* * *

There's a distance for fanless to put his foot down and invite out versus a player.

Of course, several questions were again asked even before PBA officialdom could sit down.

Should there be a legal limit to the slur a spectator can hurl on a certain player?

There's also a suggestion for the league to issue rules on protocol.

* * *

Shouldn't the PBA give security experts around to determine when a certain situation is about to go out of hand.

If not, shouldn't spectators who couldn't control their ire or keep their mouth shut be provided with escorts?

It may not be easy to determine when an absent player will finally leave relatively like an over-filled glass.

* * *

Of course, a fitful stab can never pass off as license to smear and curse a player.

But, no line, it has been a one-sided affair with spectators, who definitely need permission, on the receiving end.

There's of late an urgent call for effective policing of the immediate sections during games.

Barrios, in the league's inquiry should now in on eligible security people who were obviously sleeping on the job when Arboleda wanted to run berserk.

* * *

Based on the timing and result of the ringside incident, Arboleda would've been effectively prevented from hurting the victim.

There was ample time to hold back the attacker after he started charging in.

OK, the PBA can always claim that, security-wise, they always have what amounts to a fire truck on stand by.

Unfortunately, this fire truck was visibly crippled and useless.

The PBA needs to mount repairs.

MOUNTING SUPPORT Cebuana Lhuillier and Pilmico Philippines second their support to Filipino mountain runner Hersilia Arias (center) who will compete in the Mt. Kinabalu Climbathon this weekend in Kinabalu, Pilmico sales manager Joshua Bonjayas (left) and Cebuana's Benny Francisco recently hosted a send-off event for Arias.

Angping gets back at WAP officials

By Jose Mariano

PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION chair Harry Angping yesterday dismissed a protest filed by athletes and officials of the PSC office at the hands of supposed "saviors" of sports.

"Those protests happen while the PSC is trying its best to improve the working conditions and welfare of athletes and coaches," said Angping in a text message to the Inquirer from Qatar.

"We have in our midst people who choke themselves as saviors of sports. They are concerned people and paid rallyists to demand unreasonable things. It's very sad."

The protest rally was staged hours after the Wrestling Association of the Philippines (WAP) filed graft charges before the Ombudsman against Angping in connection with the country's hosting of the Asian Junior wrestling championship last July.

The complaint said Angping should be held liable for gross exercise, malfeasance of public funds and grave abuse in providing substandard services to athletes and guests, as well as for demanding to collect the tournament fees paid to the WAP by foreign teams.

"How can they charge me of malfeasance of funds?" said Angping, sounding as if he could change. "The fees I have a copy of all disbursements in PSC! It should be the auditor who should charge me, if any. I should be the one to sue WAP because they cost the PSC big time."

Led by WAP president Albert Pakiz, the protesters demanded the ouster of the PSC top executives.

Also taking during the rally were Mario Tandoyacan, the country's chief mission to the 25th Southeast Asian Games, and athletes' head Go Yong Hok.

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Luiz Roberto S. Ubaldo

RELATIVES of the victims offer candles and prayers at the blast site as they mark the second anniversary of the explosion which rocked the mall on Oct. 19, 2007.

'DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE'

Glorietta blast victims' kin protest mall's rehabilitation

By Allison M. Lopez

MEMBERS OF AN ANTICRIME GROUP AND RELATIVES OF SOME of the victims who were killed in the explosion that rocked Glorietta 2 in Makati City two years ago protested yesterday the rehabilitation of the mall, saying evidence was being "destroyed."

Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) founder Dante Jimenez said he was surprised that construction work was ongoing at the blast site when a criminal case filed against several persons believed to have caused the explosion was still pending at the Department of Justice (DOJ).

"We will question the reconstruction of this edifice. All I know is that evidence should not be touched," he said.

Relatives of the 11 people who were killed in the explosion which—according to authorities—was caused by a gas leak, gathered at the blast site yesterday to mark the second anniversary of the Oct. 19 incident.

Appeal to DOJ

They lit candles and offered prayers as their loved ones as they also called on the DOJ to speed up the resolution of the case.

The justice department earlier filed charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries against eight officers and staff members of Ayala Land lessor Makati Supermarket Corp. (MSC), Mandaue Industrial Sales & Services and Metalloy although it cleared Ayala Land officials of any liability.

Success archives showed that in November 2008, the DOJ also cleared MSC engineer Candelario "Wilfredo Bel said it would pursue charges against five Mandaue officers.

MSC was responsible for overseeing the repairs being conducted in the basement where the explosion occurred.

On the other hand, Mandaue conducted electrical work in the basement while Metalloy was responsible for pipe work.

Based on the findings of a DOJ panel, a buildup of methane gas and diesel fumes in the mall's basement led to the blast.

Ayala Land officials, however, said that based on an internal investigation, the explosion was caused by a bomb.

Jimenez said the victims' kin were concerned over reports that top-ranking responsibles in the case have been removed from their positions, leaving only rank-and-file personnel to face the music.

Disturbing development

"This is a very disturbing development. Let us not allow these [executives] to end up like the Ulcia stampede tragedy where only the small fish were left to fend for themselves in court while the big shots were set free of accountability. This is a mockery of justice that, sadly, we may once again witness in the Glorietta blast [case] if we are not vigilant," he said.

Deanelle Vidana, mother of Miss Grace Vidana, said she only wanted justice for her 27-year-old son, an IT programmer, who was among those killed.

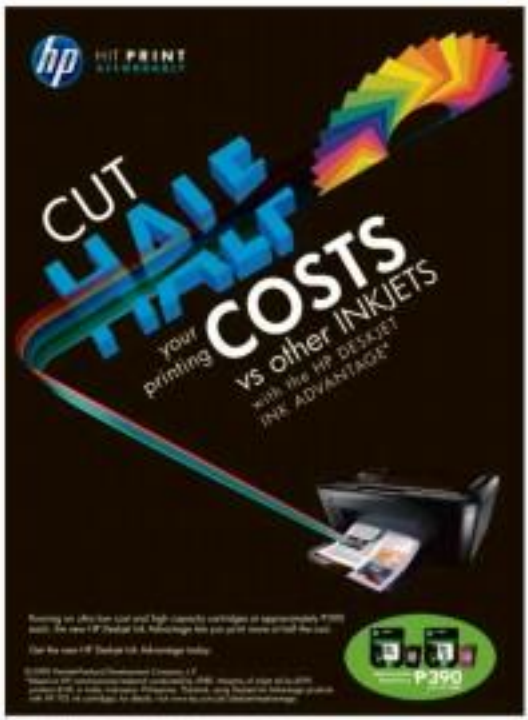
"The people who are responsible should be charged. It's not enough that we were given financial assistance," she said in Filipino.

Sought for reaction, Ayala Land's Jorge Rivera declined to comment on the case as it was still with the DOJ.

"It's been two years. We have been taking care of the victims' families. We understand how they feel and we have been coordinating with them. We understand they are trying to move on and so are we," he said.

He confirmed, however, that a redevelopment of Glorietta 1 and 2 was ongoing.

THE VICTIMS' relatives are protesting the rehabilitation of Glorietta 2 which they claim will destroy evidence.



Man slams into establishments, vehicles on sidewalk; no one hurt

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE DRIVER of a print contained his vehicle into a national several establishments on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City at around 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

Traffic investigators of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Traffic Station 4 said Jerry Agapay, 36, who identified his employer as Fr. Rene Bautista, may be charged for causing damage to property.

Based on an initial investigation, Agapay was on his way to Loyola Heights to pick up the priest and bring him to the airport.

Along the way, Agapay, who was driving a gray Honda Civic, hit the back of a Bicol Taxi cab on the eastbound lane of Commonwealth Avenue in front of the Ateneo de Manila.

Agapay, however, did not stop. He stepped on the gas, prompting another taxi driver to run after him, traffic investigators said.

The police added that a bus driver joined the chase and tried to stop Agapay by blocking the Civic's path with his bus.

Still, Agapay did not stop. He drove his vehicle onto the sidewalk and ended up hitting two telephone, a condo fence, a furniture shop and a house.

Fortunately, no one was injured.

Agapay, meanwhile, told investigators that he was forced to drive up on the sidewalk because his path was blocked by the bus.

He was placed under the custody of the QCPD Traffic Station 4 pending the filing of charges against him.

ANY TAKERS?
A motorcycle passes by a house in President Village, Marikina City which has a "For sale" sign. The subdivision was inundated in waters high floodwaters at the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Police nab gang leader in drive-by shootings

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OPERATIVES OF THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Manila Police District (MPD) have arrested the teenage leader of a gang which was involved in several drive-by shooting cases in Tondo, Manila.

At a press conference yesterday, NBI Director Nestor Mantaring identified Ivo John Emilino, 19, a dropout from the Philippine College of Criminology and president of Mata Stone in Tondo, as the leader of the "Pier Patrol" gang.

Mantaring said Emilino was arrested over the weekend by a joint team from the NBI's Intelligence Special Operations Division and MPD Tondo Station 1 headed by Supt. Roderick Marcaro, in the group's safe house.

Mantaring added that Emilino and group was behind several incidents of indiscriminate shooting perpetrated by motorcycle-riding men between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. with the victims shot at random.

The shooting incidents in the Tondo area made residents wary of stepping out of their houses in the wee hours of the morning.

Three of the group's victims were identified as nursing student Jhoy Reyes Lumanlan, 17; and Ricky Rosario, 22, and rice cake vendor Vernan Abiola.

Lumanlan and Almario were shot dead on Aug. 3 last year as they were walking home from a friend's house. Their companion, Vincent Ventura, survived.

Abiola was killed sometime in April while at least four other people were wounded in separate incidents believed to have been perpetrated by the same group.

Mantaring said it was Tondo's description of the shooters which helped them identify Emilino.

Superintendent Marcaro said the hideouts that they have yet to determine how many were, but in the gang has become frustrated "was not talking."

He added, however, that the police was conducting follow-up operations to get the other group members.

Asked why Emilino and his gang carried out drive-by shootings, Mariano said, "It seems they were imitating the street gangs in the US. The gangs there usually engage in these things to prove they are tougher than others."

Cops trace ownership of car linked to agent's death

By John M. Aurelio

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE District (QCPD) has traced the ownership of a black car which was used as a getaway vehicle in the killing of an intelligence agent.

Case investigator PO2 Jocelyn Marcelo said yesterday the black car with plate number UAD 982 was owned by a woman who lives in Caloocan province.

The police, however, was also checking other witnesses' accounts that the vehicle's license plate was UAS 982, not UAS 982.

"We will still check the other control number reported to us but as of now we have yet to visit the female owner to ask her about her involvement in the shooting," Marcelo said.

On Saturday, two men shot Dominic Anthony Cebulla, 42, a civilian intelligence agent of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), as he was eating at an eatery in Barangay Bantayan.

Cebulla was waiting for his change when a man stepped to his table, instead of apologizing, the man pointed a gun at him, witnesses said.

The two grappled for possession of the gun but another man shot the victim.

The victim's attackers then boarded a black car which was driven by a woman.

Police, meanwhile, said they were not discounting the possibility that Cebulla's friends was involved.

"But as of now, we don't have leads yet that would point to that. We are thinking that the shooting may not have been planned in connection with his work in Isafp," Marcelo said.

Mayor set to back Noynoy's girlfriend for Congress seat in 2010

By Philip C. Tubeza and Beverly T. Mendoza

WILL THE COUNTRY SOON have a first lady who's also a congresswoman?

Tolentino Councilor Shalani Soledad, the girlfriend of presidential aspirant Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, is reportedly eyeing a possible run for Congress next year, according to Batangas Philippine Tourism Authority General Manager Angeline "Lito" Banayo.

In a talk with business editors and reporters last week, Banayo said she was the reason behind Soledad's plan. The congressional Tanauan's City decision to bolt the Liberal Party.

Tanauan is the representative of the second district where Soledad is serving as councilor.

Support from Gatchalians

"That's reportedly why Consignado resigned because she's going to run for Congress. She's going to be backed by the Gatchalians," said Banayo, referring to the family of Valenzuela Mayor Giovanni Gatchalian.

Banayo said he got his information from the mayor.

Soledad, 29, garnered the biggest number of votes when she ran for councilor in 2007.

Contacted by the Inquirer for comment, Soledad said she had not yet decided on the matter.

"There is no final decision

yet," she stressed.

But with the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy coming up next month, Soledad said she would be announcing her political plans within the next two weeks.

According to her, she was still thinking about the matter. She added that she would also be asking her family for their input.

No longer with Lakas

She also did not say whether she would running under the Liberal Party although she did confirm that she would not be running under the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

Soledad ran for and won as councilor under the administration party in 2007.

Only recently, she and Valenzuela Vice Mayor Eric Martinez joined the Nationalist People's Coalition to ally themselves with Gatchalian.

For some time, there had been talk in Batangas City that Soledad was being groomed to run for Congress next year.

In September, when Aquino was proclaimed as the Liberal Party's standard bearer in next year's presidential race, people assumed she would also be running in his party.

Soledad currently chairs the committee of appropriations, and ways and means—run very well, investive committees that deal with the city's finances.

Citizenry should take initiative in tree planting

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE CORNIX URGES THE citizenry on Saturday to plant trees in our mountains and forests so that when the next rainfall laden storm like "Ondoy" comes, there won't be mass flooding, landslides and landslides.

There not only absorb the poisonous carbon dioxide in the air we breathe, they also prevent floods from coming down the mountains. Their roots absorb rainwater.

What we see in photos from the mountains settled on the bed of rivers and creeks which overflowed during Ondoy and Pepeng."

US billionaire linked to Sri Lanka terror funding

WASHINGTON—A US-based hedge-fund billionaire charged as part of an insider-trading case was investigated by US authorities for allegedly raising funds for a Sri Lankan separatist group, The Wall Street Journal reported late Saturday.

Citing people familiar with the probe, the newspaper said federal agents had uncovered documents showing that Raj Rajaratnam, founder of the Galleon Group, was among several wealthy Sri Lankans in the United States whose donations to a Maryland-based charity made their way to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The LTTE, commonly known as the Tamil Tigers, fought a brutal separatist war against the government of Sri Lanka from 1976 until it was defeated late May.

Rajaratnam, 52, was among six people arrested on Friday in what the Federal Bureau of Investigation said is the largest ever, hedge-fund insider-trading case, the paper noted.

Federal prosecutors in New York charged Rajaratnam with securities fraud and conspiracy to commit securities fraud.

Prosecutors allege Rajaratnam and his ring of alleged accomplices earned $33 million in improper gains, the report said.

Rajaratnam's New York-based Galleon fund firm manages $3.7 billion in investments.

Jim Walden, a lawyer for Rajaratnam, said his client is innocent and will fight the charges, according to the paper.

Michelle and Rajaratnam made charitable donations "to rebuild homes destroyed by the tsunami" that devastated Sri Lanka and other countries in 2004, and that he wasn't involved with the LTTE, the lawsuit said.

As part of a separate investment probe, which was led by the FBI in Brooklyn, New York, eight other people have pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to the LTTE, designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, The Journal noted.

Prosecutors in the same insider-trading case have charged Rajaratnam and other donors knew their contributions were routed to the Tamil Tigers, according to the report.

The documents in a federal criminal complaint filed in US District Court in New York's Eastern District include allegations by federal agents that money donated to a US charity called Tamil Rehabilitation Organization, or TRO-USA, of Cumberland, Maryland, was funneled to the Tamil Tigers in targeting the paper noted. AFP

Medical marijuana users in US given free pass

WASHINGTON—THE OBAMA administration will not seek to arrest medical marijuana users and suppliers as long as they conform to state laws, under new policy guidelines to be sent to federal prosecutors on Monday.

Two Justice Department officials described the new policy to The Associated Press, saying prosecutors will be told it is not a good use of their time to arrest people who are complying with state laws on medical marijuana in strict compliance with those laws.

The new policy is a significant departure from the Bush administration, which insisted it would continue to enforce federal current laws regardless of state statutes.

Fourteen states allow some use of marijuana for medical purposes: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

California is unique among those for the widespread presence of dispensaries—businesses that sell marijuana and even advertise their services. Colorado also has several dispensaries, and Rhode Island and New Mexico are in the process of licensing providers, according to the Marijuana Policy Project, a group that promotes the decriminalization of marijuana use.

Attorney General Eric Holder said in March that he wanted federal law enforcement officials to pursue those who violate both federal and state law, but it has not been clear how that goal would be put into practice.

A three-page memo spelling out the policy is expected to be sent on Monday to federal prosecutors in the 50 states, and also to top officials at the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

The memo, the officials said, emphasizes that prosecutors have wide discretion in choosing which cases to pursue, and says it is not a good use of federal manpower to pursue those who are without a doubt in compliance with state law.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the legal guidance before it is issued.

"This is a major step forward," said Bruce Mirken, communications director for the Marijuana Policy Project. "This change in policy moves the federal government dramatically toward respecting scientific and practical reality."

At the same time, the officials said, the government will still prosecute those who use medical marijuana as a cover for other illegal activity. The memo particularly warns that some suppliers may hide old-fashioned drug dealing or other crimes behind a medical marijuana front.

In particular, the memo says prosecutors to pursue marijuana cases which involve violence, the illegal use of firearms, selling pot to minors, money laundering or other crimes. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

White House signals delay in Afghan troop decision

WASHINGTON—The White House signaled on Sunday that President Barack Obama would postpone a decision on sending additional troops to Afghanistan until disputed elections there had been settled and resulted in a government that could work with the United States. An audit of Afghanistan's Aug. 20 elections ground toward a conclusion. American officials pressed President Hamid Karzai to accept a runoff vote or interim power rather than mass fraud. Abdullah Abdullah, a foe of Karzai's, rejected Karzai's support appeared likely to fall below 50 percent in the final count, together he and Mr. Abdullah received 70 percent, in theory enough to forge a unity government with national credibility. The question at the heart of the battle, said the president's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, is not "how many troops you send, but do you have a credible Afghan partner for this process that can provide the security and the type of services that the Afghan people need?"

AFP

Iran vows 'crushing' response; attack toll rises

TEHRAN—Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards promised a "crushing" response to an attack that killed several senior commanders, state television said on Monday, as the death toll from the deadliest such incident in years rose to 42. In neighboring Pakistan, a foreign ministry spokesperson condemned Sunday's suicide bombing in southeastern Iran near the Pakistani border and denied suggestions from Iran that security agents in Pakistan were cooperating with the perpetrators.

Reuters

Pakistan says 60 militants dead as Taliban resist onslaught

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—Taliban fighters mounted fierce resistance as jets pounded their bases and troops backed by artillery leader's hometown on Sunday, in a major offensive Pakistan says has killed 60 militants. More than 100,000 people have fled South Waziristan, part of the tribal belt on the Afghan border that US officials call the most dangerous place on earth, staying with relatives or renting accommodation to escape the fighting. Thousands of pro-Taliban militant fighters, heavily armed and well-trained, are holed up in the tribal belt, where the Army says the offensive is concentrated on strongholds of the Tehreek-e-Taliban movement.

AFP

Number of Islamic militant recruits rising, report says

WASHINGTON—A rising number of Western recruits, including Americans, are traveling to Afghanistan and Pakistan to attend paramilitary training camps for militant Islamists, The Washington Post reported late Sunday. Citing unnamed US and European counterterrorism officials, the newspaper said the flow of recruits has continued unabated in spite of an intensified campaign over the past year by the CIA to eliminate al Qaeda and Taliban commanders in drone missile attacks. Since January, at least 30 recruits from Germany have traveled to Pakistan for training, said the report, which cited German security sources. About 10 people have returned to Germany this year, fueling concerns that they could act on the orders against European targets, the paper said.

AFP

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

Sheriff calls balloon boy drama a hoax

Medicol Advance pays tribute to Selfless Winners

We have recently heard a lot of inspiring stories of random individuals and groups that have come together to help. Helpless from all walks of life to lives of great need. Indeed, it has touched our hearts to know that in these trying times, Filipinos can come together with one voice and with one spirit.

With so many winning acts that are done selflessly in the country this year, Medicol Advance would like to thank and pay tribute to those people who have gone out of their way to help other people and communities.

From October 1 (1st) to November 5, 2009, we invite everyone to nominate individuals or groups of individuals that have truly exemplified selfless winning acts in 2009. All you have to do is visit Medicol Advance's Facebook page and share the inspiring story of a person/group you wish to congratulate.

Each week, for TEN (10) weeks, Medicol Advance will donate P10,000 worth of grocery and personal care items plus P10,000 worth of Medicol Advance to the beneficiary/community of the nominee's choice. The nominator will also be given gift certificates, which they can also use to reach out to help other people in need.

This is Medicol Advance's own little way of paying it forward by recognizing and helping other people who may want to reach out to those who are in need but do not have the resources to do so.

Tune in after just this first of Medicol Advance's upcoming efforts to pay tribute to Selfless Winners of our country today.

Log-on to Facebook and search for 'Medicol Advance's Selfless Winning Acts Page to join and read the full mechanics.

Medicol Advance is from the makers of Medicol.

A STORY THAT TRANSFIXED millions of television viewers last week—about a child trapped aboard a spaceship-like balloon as it floated uncontrollably across the Colorado landscape—was concocted by the boy's parents to gain publicity, law enforcement officials said on Sunday.

"They put on a very good show for us, and we bought it," Sheriff Jim Alderden of Larimer County said at a news conference on burning Monday.

Calling the episode an elaborate hoax, Alderden said he expected to file felony charges against the parents—Richard Heene and his wife, Mayumi—who claimed on Thursday that their 6-year-old son, Falcon, had climbed aboard the homemade helium balloon before it soared thousands of feet into the skies above Fort Collins, Colo.

The report prompted a large-scale aerial and ground pursuit, but the authorities learned hours later that Falcon had never left the ground. The instruction, the sheriff said, was a ploy to boost the family's reality television star bid.

FALCON Heene

Heene's wife, Mayumi, and Falcon, who is 6, were charged with felony counts of attempting to influence a public servant. The last carries a possible prison term of six years. The charges could also include misdemeanor filing a false report.

The sheriff said his conclusions were based on separate interviews of the Heenes and their three children, as well as on witness statements, photos, e-mail messages and documents in their home. He said the decision to fly a balloon and tell the authorities that Falcon was aboard was made two weeks ago. AFP

Thousands of foreclosed in US go to homeless shelters

CLEVELAND—GROWING NUMBERS OF Americans who have lost houses in foreclosure are landing in homeless shelters, according to social service groups and a recent report by a coalition of housing advocates.

Only three years ago, foreclosures were rarely a factor in how people became homeless. But among the homeless people that several service agencies have helped over the last year, an average of 30 percent lost homes to foreclosure, according to "Foreclosure as Homelessness 2009," a survey produced by the National Coalition for the Homeless and six other advocacy groups.

In the Midwest, foreclosure played a role for 15 percent of newly homeless people, according to the survey, reflecting soaring rates of unemployment—Ohio's reached 10.6 percent in August—and aggressive lending to people with damaged credit.

Similar increases have been seen in districts in California, Michigan and Florida, where a combination of joblessness and the real estate bust has prevented seasonally reserve rates of foreclosures.

Most people who become homeless because of foreclosure had been low-income renters whose landlords stopped making their mortgage payments, leaving them scrambling for new housing with little notice and scant savings, according to the survey and interviews with shelters.

But in recent months, there has been a visible increase in the number of former homeowners showing up in shelters.

"These families never needed help before," said Larry Haynes, executive director of Shelter House in Santa Ana, Calif. "They haven't a clue about where to go, and they have all sorts of humiliation issues. They don't even know what to say, what to ask for."

Those with means try to rent homes or apartments, though rainted stalls often makes that impossible. Growing numbers are landing in motels that rent by the week, scrounging whole families into single rooms and using hot plates as kitchens. But as unemployment expands, many cannot afford to remain. AFP

Lito Ruel O. Marcelo • Associate Editor Carrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Ayala Land gains foothold in Subic

P3-B mixed-use project on 7.5-hectare lot

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. HAS gained a foothold in the Subic Bay Freeport with a recent deal to lease and develop a 7.5-hectare government property at the heart of the Subic central business district.

All eyes are on pump in about P10 billion in total investment into the area overseen by Central Luzon, which is a threefold increase from its traditional hubs in suburban Metro Manila and Southern Luzon.

The company has signed a 50-year lease agreement with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority for the development of a property along Rizal Highway, within the Subic Bay Freeport, located between the two main gates linking the freeport zone to Olongapo City.

"We're a real investment of approximately P3 billion, including investments generated from the project's multiplier effect from retail, office and hotel location, the project is expected to create about 10,000 new jobs from construction phase to operations," ALI deputy managing officer Alfonso Javier Reyes disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday.

For the new project, ALI envisions an integrated mixed-use, master-planned community that will include a shopping mall, business process outsourcing office building and hotel.

"This development is part of the company's strategy to enable growth centers in various parts of the country," Reyes said.

"The company's development will be a catalyst for growth in the Subic-Olongapo corridor and will be a major mixed-use project in the Subic Freeport zone that is well-planned, integrated and environmentally sustainable," he added.

This is ALI's first foray into Subic Bay Freeport itself, although it has an investment in leisure estate Anvaya Cove in nearby Morong, Bataan.

ALI also recently opened Shoppes at Mall, a 70,000-square-meter shopping complex near the business district of Angeles City and adjacent to the Angeles exit of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx).

The group is upbeat on Central Luzon given the improving infrastructure in the area. The Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark is seen playing a bigger role as a gateway for logistics. The area has also become much more accessible with the recent development of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway and its link up to the upgraded NLEx.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Elementary and HS teachers wages at P12,000 (2008)

Unilab gears for battle with Pfizer

By Abigail L. Ho

UNITED LABORATORIES INC., the country's biggest listed pharmaceutical firm, is here on dismantling the monopoly of its dusty giant Pfizer Inc. over the widely popular anti-hypertensive drug amlodipine, marketed under the Lipitor brand.

Unilab launched earlier this month its version of the drug, branded Amosan, which will be about 20 percent cheaper than Lipitor.

According to market data, Pfizer's Lipitor currently sells for P54.45 for a 10-milligram (mg) tablet, P59.13 for a 20-mg tablet, and P63.50 for a 40-mg tablet.

Prior to the imposition of the Maximum Drug Retail Price under RA 9502, or the Universally Accessible and Quality Cheaper Medicines Act, Lipitor was priced at P63.75, P70.25 and P101 for a 10-mg, 20-mg, and 40-mg tablet, respectively.

Unilab's Amosan, on the other hand, goes for P25 for a 10-mg, P30 for a 20-mg, and P35 for a 40-mg tablet.

The two pharmaceutical companies are now locked in a patent battle, with Unilab challenging Pfizer's patent for Amosan's molecule through a filing with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines seeking to cancel this particular patent.

The Amosan patent was actually held by Sharon Landmark, which Pfizer acquired in 2006.

According to sources, Unilab's petition for patent cancellation was based on the patent's failure to meet patentability standards under the Intellectual Property Code and the Cheaper Medicines Act.

Essentially, the patent was an attempt at "evergreening," or making small modifications on the same compound to ensure almost perpetual patent renewal.

Similar patents, however, have already been invalidated in Australia, Guatemala, Germany, Norway, South Korea, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, paving the way for the introduction of lower-priced generic versions of the drug.

The Unilab petition is still pending action of IP Philippines.

9-month budget deficit swells to P237.5B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT SPENT P237.5 billion over its budget in September, or 37.2 percent higher than the deficit it incurred in the same month last year, mainly due to weak revenues.

That brought the deficit spending in the first nine months of 2009 to a total of P237.5 billion, or a fifth more than the program of P217.6 billion for the period.

The nine-month deficit also represented 93 percent of the full-year target cap of P200 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said yesterday the government was likely to spend more than the deficit program unless it was able to privatize the assets lined up for disposition this year.

The government plans to raise P50 billion this year from privatization, including P13 billion from its 40-percent share in PNOC Exploration Corp. and P13 billion from the 183-hectare property of Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City.

» MORE B2

TEVES

Looming bidding war lifts Meralco past P200

SHARES OF MANILA ELECTRIC Co. broke past the P200 a share mark for the first time in nearly two months as corporations that own Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong will bow up to stake in the power retailer.

Since last week, there were talks in the market that the First Metro group, led by Manuel V. Pangilinan, would buy more shares in Meralco from the Lopez family. First Pacific owns 34.7 percent of Meralco through Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Metro-Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC).

Meralco shares rose 6.5 percent to close at P211 at the local stock bourse yesterday to hit an intra-day high of P217.

It was the most actively traded stock, accounting for 15.11 percent of the P2.2 billion worth of stocks in a flat trading session.

The Lopezes' First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Benpres Holdings Corp. likewise were up 3.6 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively in heavy trading as they were expected to benefit most from Meralco's stock price appreciation.

After selling a 20-percent stake to the PLDT group earlier this year, the Lopezes still own a crucial minority block of 13.4

» LOOMING B2

CURRENCIES

P48.57 = $1 as of 5 p.m. Oct. 19, 2009

P48.47 = $1 as of 5 p.m. Oct. 19, 2009

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.32 percent higher yesterday on last-minute buying of blue-chips, dealers said.

The composite index added 6.39 points to end at 2,002.28 while the all shares index edged up 6.53 points or 0.36 percent to 1,863.16. A total of 1.59 billion shares worth P2.24 billion changed hands although decliners outpaced advancers 88 to 82, with 61 other issues ending unchanged.

The peso traded at an average of 48.383 to the dollar in the morning. "The market managed to rebound after early sluggishness. Investors are positioning ahead of third quarter results," RamParker go-of DBP-Daiwa Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

Manila Electric Co. rose 6.56 percent to P211 while Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. dropped 0.96 percent to P2,060.

First Philippine Holdings added 3.57 percent to P53.58 but unit Energy Development Corp. fell 1.83 percent to P4.80. AFP

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **NFA hopes** to raise P27B in bond sale /B6

Will the market correction ever happen?

MARKET RIDER

Dave Sonora

WILL THE MARKET CORRECTION ever happen?

I was told by friends and other readers of my column that they have been waiting for my "feared" major market correction to happen—since they take no recess in October—since I mused about this a few weeks ago.

To recall, the famous stock market crashes on Wall Street that also affected our shores all happened in October. These were the Wall Street Crash of 1929, the market crash of 1973-74 and the so-called Black Monday crash of 1987.

The last notable market crash in October happened on another Monday. This was on Oct. 27, 1997. The Dow lost 554.3 points or 7.2 percent.

Actually, the major market crashes that followed after 1987 no longer occurred in October as they did before. They sporadically happened either in the months of August or September. However, they noticeably also identified ahead of time. These brought about scholarly issues that questioned many important assumptions of modern economics, namely: The theories of rational human conduct, market equilibrium and the principles of market efficiency.

So far, no answers have been found to satisfactorily contextualize the failure of these age-old principles except for the conclusions that they have fallen short and failed to uphold business wisdom and logic.

From the ongoing debates on the subject, it appears that the policy of *contextualization may...after all...have a place* not only in the theory of quantitative but in economics as well.

Week 19

Meanwhile, it appears that our number riders in the virtual game are taking their directionless economic policy and market philosophy in stride, ignoring the wooden nickels stuff of the market to the majority and handling the actual task of trading the market to Generalists like many of us. Thus, the Cyclebreaker Trades 26 and The Gambler made more trades to improve their standing for a better market performance. (See Table 1.)

To continue, the net stayed idle which caused some changes in the performance standings. Trader 26 got back in the positions, trading back from greater value had acquired. Idle for the week to 8th position. It also proved beneficial to Cyclebreaker. An additional trade during the week was a good decision. It enhanced the value of her investment portfolio.

This wasn't the case, though, with The Gambler. His additional trade for the week did not help his investment portfolio from growing and possibly getting the lead from Treat Me, as he might have thought. His new stock pick (refer to Table 2), is apparently on the downsliding. *More details of their market performance are shown* on Tables 2 and 3.

Bottom line spin

At the face the calculations that he or she and here we are coping up, I believe that the market may no longer turn for much as it may possibly be. It may just generally move sideways for the rest of October.

Depending on how things will turn out in the next few months, too, the market might even work out positively and suppose to support forecasts which say that "gold prices will hit $1,500 an ounce in 2011 when oil prices move back above $100 a barrel as emerging markets' growth creates shortages."

In conclusion, I personally feel that a major market correction may no longer materialize at all, while maintaining a "Trading Bull" stance in the meantime. There are many leads that can point us towards the market in the future. Nonetheless, for reading purposes, be always aware of the market adage that "every price along a trend set becomes the starting point of a reversal."

You may reach the Market Rider at mailto:davidjsonora@yahoo.com.ph or directly at: davidsonora@yahoo.com

9-month

From page B1

Holding for the PTI property mascille-clared a failure endor the month while Bonus Issuance" declined the planned sale of the PHOC-EC shares as "recording border and border" as the year draws to a close.

On September, the government raised P180.7 billion in revenues, up 14.3 percent year-on-year from P95.6 billion.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue collected in P86.2 billion, which was 0.8 percent higher than the P85.8 billion a year ago.

Balance of payments hit surplus of $502M in Sept.

DA seeks additional ₱2.3B from gov't

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is seeking P2.3 billion from the government's P1.2-billion supplemental budget to help farmers reeling from the damages wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap told reporters that the governmental would release P1.6 billion this week for the local farmers.

But according to Yap, an additional P800 million is still needed because the P1.6 billion may only cover damage to livestock and poultry. It covers drying facilities.

Yap said he sought a bigger share of the P1.2-billion supplemental budget because "there are just five production support ... we have to have our farmers plant right away when the rains recedes."

"We have to repair our irrigation infrastructure because the weather is unpredictable ... By may be (rainy) next, but we don't know [what the weather would be like] a few months from now," Yap explained.

And as long as funds are available and can credibly be accessed, the DA can use to the resuscitation of the livestock farm within six months to a year, he added.

The DA is now supporting relief efforts of other government agencies. Also, the agency may soon provide subsidies to farmers who have suffered losses due to the farm calamities as they can immediately replant.

"What we lost in 2009, maybe we can recover and harvest by (February) or March next year," he said.

Already, the DA has allocated some P40.4 million for support services in the form seeds to help more than, hoping brought on by harsh weather, he added.

By Reuterd W. Dominguez

THE COUNTRY'S BALANCE OF payments (BOP) hit a surplus of $502 million in September as the amount of remittances from overseas Filipinos continued to shrink.

This development prompted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to again issue its forecast for the year.

Based on BSP data, the BOP remained at a surplus in the past four months, ranging from $108 million to $1.04 billion.

The latest figure brought the BOP for the nine months to September to a surplus of $3.277 billion—126 percent higher than the surplus of $1.64 billion seen in the same period last year.

The BOP is a closely watched economic indicator that reflects a country's foreign exchange liquidity. The level of liquidity will determine a country's ability to engage in commercial transactions with the rest of the world.

Factors that help boost the country's BOP include foreign investments, income from exports, remittances from overseas Filipinos, foreign currency denominated loans extended to the government, and the BSP's investments abroad.

According to monetary authorities, remittances from overseas Filipinos entered through banks in August increased year-on-year by 2.8 percent to $1.37 billion.

This brought the cumulative remittances during the eight months to August to $11.34 billion—an increase of 2.7 percent from that of last year.

The BOP and growth in remittances are seen as indicators given by the deployment of more Filipino workers abroad.

From January to August, major sources of remittances were the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Italy and Germany.

In a report dated Oct. 16, ABN Kim Eng Securities said there would be "a considerable recovery" in remittances in September to early October as the aftermath of two storms died down/diminished.

Looning

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Thailand threatens to delay Asean pact over rice

RP offer deemed unacceptable

BANGKOK—RICE-EXPORTER THAILAND threatened to delay an Asean free trade agreement unless it can get a "fair deal" on rare earth from the Philippines, the world's biggest buyer of the food staple, Thai officials said yesterday.

The 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)—of which Thailand and the Philippines are members—are due to ratify an Asean Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) at their summit in Thailand this week. The pact is among the steps that Asean, with a combined population of 500 million, is taking toward becoming an EU-style grouping.

"Thailand will make its final proposal at the Asean summit meeting this weekend that it would not ratify the Asean if it cannot get fair deals from the Philippines on the rice issue," a senior Commerce Ministry official said.

That Commerce Minister Porntiva Nakasai was quoted as saying in a local newspaper that Thailand could not accept the Philippines' offer to compensate for its delay in using tariffs on rice imports by giving Thailand an annual tariff-free rice export quota, saying the amount was too small.

According to the Asean free trade pact, Philippine rice import tariffs should be cut to 20 percent from 40 percent by Jan. 1, 2010.

But Manila insists that rice is classified under a "highly sensitive list" that allows tariffs to stay at 35 percent.

The Philippines is proposing to give Thailand a quota of 500,000 tons of tariff-free rice yearly to compensate for not meeting the tariff target, while Thailand has demanded 900,000 tons, another senior commerce ministry official said.

Trade ministers from the two countries need to agree on the dispute for it to reach the Asean summit this weekend at Thailand's beach resort of Hua Hin, the official said.

Thailand, the world's biggest rice exporter, exported 10 million tons of rice in 2008, of which 599,677 tons went to the Philippines, the world's biggest rice importer, Thailand's customs ministry data showed. Reuters

Ship of things to come

THE STORY SHOWS US THE STATE OF things to come in the power generation sector.

You see, the power shortage in the Visayas, which this city administration of Gwapotown has been clamoring, almost threatening to secede out of the country.

The investment arm of the Japanese group Tomimoto, owner of local shipbuilding firm Tomimoto Heavy Industries (Cebu) Inc., or THICI.

Even before it opened the complex, the company already programmed to raise the capacity of the vessels to 1 Mt, in deadweight tons.

To give you an idea on the size of these ships, at such a weight, they can be more than half a kilometer long.

The problem was that THICI's 1.6L-hectare shipbuilding complex was located in Cebu, which as we recently was suffering from power shortages.

For its scheduled expansion, THICI saved, of an additional capacity of only 18 megawatts, and yet the local power company could not provide it.

That was the Toledo Power Station, owned by Global Business Power Corp., or GBPC, which in turn belonged to the Metrobank group of Captain George Ty.

You see, the Toledo plant was the old power station of mine consolidated Mining, subsequently acquired by the bankrupt Philcomsat, which sold it to GBPC.

Everybody in the shipbuilding business knows that Metrobank has been neglecting its power generating plants in the Visayas. They were actually in some of disrepair when GBPC bought them.

But now GBPC has an ongoing multibillion expansion in the Visayas, investing more than $500 (roughly P25 billion) in new power plants in Cebu and Panay Island.

The only problem is that GBPC wants to take care of the demand in the fast industrializing island for a few years from its completion.

Still, it would take some time before the Toledo power plant could serve the increase in the demand from THICI's expansion.

The shipbuilding company threatened to pull out of the Philippines. It could not wait. And naturally could blame THICI.

For sure, it had a long schedule of orders to meet or else, it could have to pay a forfeit to the shipowners for any delay in the delivery.

A pullout by THICI would have been a big blow to the local economy of Cebu. The company employed directly some 3,000 highly paid skilled workers.

Moreover, the company formed out various jobs to contractors, which were estimated to employ some 6,000 workers for the THICI contracts.

From what I heard, GBCP executives were in a rush to meet shareholder plan for THICI that needed some political standing.

For me, the plan involved state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor), which still owned the geothermal power generating plants in nearby Leyte.

It so happened that GBCP had excess capacity in Panay. The executives proposed to swap the excess with Napocor's capacity in Leyte for delivery to Toledo.

As usual, it must better to talk to Napocor than to talk to a wall.

Who should the up to cost those thousands of jobs but Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, the older

BREAKTIME

Conrado E. Bernal III

of GSB president and general manager Marian Garcia who, in turn, finished on attack against the Lopez family that controlled Meralco.

Anyway, it seems that the government committed Cat "Herself" might be the better friend Napocor in negotiations for the power swap. There—problem solved!

That's probably why this cute administration, particularly the boys in Napocor and the Department of Energy, are still denying the power shortage in the Visayas.

Look, they can still solve up the problem.

ALL OF A SUDDEN, I started look upon both of reddit phone text messages, all trying to introduce Sen. Benigno Aquino III, a.k.a. Noynoy.

That, I thought, was due to the latest SWS survey, showing the senator to be leading the field's presidential aspirants by miles.

All right, the SWS survey might have been a bit off kilter. If you added the total percentages of stated preference for all the "undecideds," you would come up with more than 100 percent—something like 160 percent.

Nobody could say if such was the SWS way of predicting statistic cases of display (Noynoy) in the 2010 elections.

It's just that the SWS method actually measured precisely this—voters' "preferences"? I understand that SWS asked the respondents to name their three top choices for president in 2010.

Come the day of the elections, however, the voters may only cast one name, right?

Based on media reports on the SWS methodology, the highest possible score of an aspirant in that particular survey would have been 100 percent.

I mean, look, if all the respondents put only one preferential aspirant for all three choice top choices, the aspirant would have gotten a score of 300 percent.

Thus, I did not actually think that Noynoy's score of 60 percent (versus highest possible score of 300 percent) was already something to be elated by to crow about, much less for his supporters to flaunt the results with black eyes.

Anyway, in the human sense, which applies most of the campaign funds of presidential candidates, the rank is about count themes.

Indications are that the unsailing rewards, since will not be giving as "terrible" to say considerable as they did.

Like it or not, the Liberal Party—despite the backing of the rich family of Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II—will have to take stance for Noynoy.

Insiders told me that they party for instance, calculates a need of 1 billion million just on the day of the elections.

It stands that this huge sum will just pay for the salaries of the poll watchers.

More than all those unbelievable concepts of two teenage black prop against Noynoy, the question is his Liberal Party does remains funding.

You know—how will Noynoy and the Liberal Party raise it?

Gov't urged to tap rice reserve

By Amy R. Borja

FARMERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS yesterday urged the government to tap the East Asia Energy Rice Reserve (EAERR) to reverse supply-as amidst prices.

In a statement, Rice Watch and Action Network (RICE) said it had been pushing for the activation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) rice reserve mechanism since the height of the rice crisis in 2008. The group is lobbying for its inclusion in the agenda of the upcoming Asean Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting in November.

"I think it is about time the Asean puts food security in the forefront in the light of the calamities and devastation that had befallen the region. Indonesia recently got hit by a devastating earthquake about the same time as Typhoon 'Ondoy' and 'Pepeng' and 'Ondoy' wrought havoc in the country," said RI food convenor Jessica Reyes Cuanzo.

The EAERR pilot project, which began in 2004, is meant to help rice-deficit and calamity-prone countries to have immediate access to rice when there is calamity.

This is the same Rice reserve that the Philippines had planned to set up at the height of the global rice crisis in 2008.

Under the EAERR scheme, Asean countries have pledged certain volumes of rice that may be tapped by other Asean countries in case of emergency.

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January 29 - February 27, 2010

Testimonials

We had the right materials and practice sets to prepare for the exam. We just had to establish our deep understanding (consistently) of the processes and PMBoss to address the situations and concepts asked. Timing as to when to take the exam played a vital role because it helped me a lot that I took the exam right after the PMP® Review course while information was still fresh in my mind. Thanks to Adam and Mark who were good Project Management facilitators!

Ryan Bolivar
Senior System Analyst
Kraft Foods Philippines

I find the PMP® Review Program with Instant CEU useful for it doesn't only focus on one reference book but also on other references materials valuable for preparing you for the PMP® Exam. The practice tests after every session really helped a lot as they immediately gauge the understanding of each participant. If you're really serious about the review program and do home study, in just two weeks, you will surely pass the PMP® Exam!

Norissa Dulce Reyes
Project Manager
Fujitsu Philippines, Incorporated

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Project Management Institute

CAC SETS UP CENTRAL SERVICE PROCESSING CENTER FOR FLOOD-DAMAGED VEHICLES

Offers 50% discount on cost of parts; P50K discount on purchase of new Kia vehicles

Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), authorized distributor of Kia vehicles in the Philippines, has teamed up with its Korean principal, Kia Motors Corporation, in setting up a Central Service Processing Center (CSPC) to serve as clearing house and dispatch center to facilitate the immediate repair of flood-damaged Kia vehicles.

The CSPC is housed at 100 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Libis Quezon City and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, to process and refer all typhoon-damaged Kia vehicles to the nearest authorized Kia service center. Areas covered include Metro Manila and the surrounding flood-affected areas. The service hotlines are 0922-8248830, 0923-8248831 and (02) 568-4142.

The setting up of the CSPC is only one in a series of emergency response moves that CAC has done to assist Kia car owners, especially those whose vehicles have been severely damaged by the floods spawned by typhoon Ondoy, to cope with the current situation. The other measures include the 50% discount offer on the cost of Kia parts and the P50,000 off on the price tag for the purchase of a new Kia unit. As a corollary offer, a special fund subsidy is offered to Kia vehicle owners who will trade up their old Kia cars for a brand new unit.

Felix J. Mabilog, Jr., president and COO of CAC said that the current emergency has already caused untold suffering and misery to countless thousands who have been rendered homeless and hungry, a great number of them Kia owners, and it is only human to assist and help them cope.

"We cannot add more to the pain, injury or depression the typhoon has caused our motoring public and customers. Kia truly cares and offering this assistance to Kia vehicle owners by way of discounts and immediate emergency vehicle repair is a way of mitigating the unfortunate turn of events," Mabilog says. "We are ready to extend help the way we know best, and that is to render damaged Kia vehicles serviceable and mobile again," he adds.

A reimbursable towing service fee not exceeding P2,000 will be extended to Kia owners with damaged vehicles from their place of origin up to the Kia authorized service shop. Engine oil filter and air cleaner element will also be given free to the first 100 Kia owners of each current Kia model (2006-2008), who bring their flood-damaged cars for servicing at Kia's authorized service shops.

Participating Kia Service shops include: Alabang, Congressional, Fairview, Mandaluyong, Marikina, New Manila, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon Ave., Pampanga, Sto. Tomas and Calamba/Laguna.

Sharing the spotlight

This month in the country's most read Golf Magazine :

- Tiger, Phil stamp their class in PGA Tour's season-ender
- Ferdie Aunzo clinches maiden victory in local pro tour
- Confessions of a Leadbetter Academy graduate
- Big Ateneo comeback in Samsung Interscholastic
- 10 signs of a real golf addict
- Reviews: New distractions for tailormade clubs vary

Inquirer Golf magazine is given free to inquirer subscribers in Metro Manila. If you want to be an inquirer subscriber, please call 896-6000.

NFA hopes to raise ₱27B in bond sale

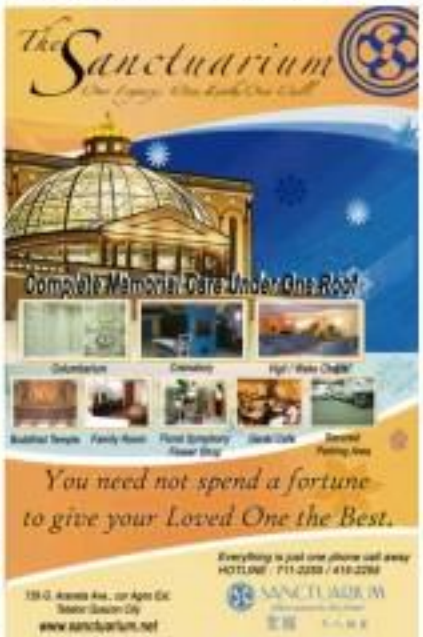
THE FOOD GRAIN AGENCY HOPES TO sell as much as P27 billion ($577 million) worth of 10-year domestic bonds on Oct. 26 to fund operations and repay maturing debt, an official yesterday said.

But Leticia Cruz of the National Food Authority's budget and treasury office told reporters the issue would be broken into several tranches, depending on market appetite.

"I don't think the market will be able to absorb that. We will be happy with P6 or P10 billion," Cruz said, referring to the bond sale next week. "We'll see how the market will react. It could [take] several auctions."

The NFA earlier said it would likely buy more imported rice on top of 250,000 metric tons of imports tender on Nov. 4 as it seeks to lock in supply for up to 10 months.

Reuters



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Shelf of medicinal fruits and vegetables

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

WITH ALL THE local health foods and supplements available in the market, Filipino consumers are often bamboozled by the beneficial claims on the packaging. In reading the ingredients of some brands are either of low quality or overprocessed.

Young entrepreneur Rina Galvez Tan is slowly building up her health supplement business using Filipino medicinal plants that have been certified by the Department of Health (DOH). A chip of the old block, Rina is the daughter of former DOH secretary Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, who is also a proponent of integrative medicine.

Most of the products contain a combination of fruits, herbs and vegetables that are found in the collective book "Medicinal Fruits and Vegetables" written by her father and her mother, Rebecca Morales-Galvez Tan.

"We get a lot of imported health products. Why can't we promote our own which are equally effective and safe if we want to improve the quality of our life?" muses Rina. "If you want more energy, you don't need to go on a biologic-braindrain route because we have the local ingredients. It's abuse time somebody pushes these products. There's been no formal credible channel for them."

Last year, Rina established the financial shelf, distributor of assortment of organic Filipino products (in clinics and through the website (www.financialshelf.com).

"When people see the health products on the shelf, they just look at the package but they don't know where the ingredients come from. We want to educate consumers on the value chain. We partner with research and development labs and we have a pool of experts from the University of the Philippines to help us."

The financial shelf distinguishes itself by putting a thorough background check on its suppliers, where they source the materials (e.g. the farms should be away from factories and pig-pens), how they are processed, the nutritional value of the raw materials which can affect the potency.

"Instead of a stamp for quality, we put a nutregular seal to say that the product has been tested by the Financial Shelf. The suppliers go through a process. We visit their sources and manufacturing. If the manufacturers discourage us from visiting them and say, 'You might copy,' it's not a good indication for us. The products are tested on labs and investigated up to the penicillin yeast, molds and bacteria. The actual product is tested on doctors' patients. These are supplements with in vitro claims," Rina explains.

Products

Financial Shelf carries personal care and home care products. Food mixes and nutritional supplements.

With the popularity of dried snacks, Rina presents alternatives such as sugarless dried fruits and all-fruit camote chips made by Fruit Gems, an agricultural company from Misamis.

She warns that dried fruits may not always be healthy as they have too much sugar and sulfites for a two-year shelf life. There are alternatives such as an herbal heating pad made from a mixture of local plants stuffed in a pure cotton package useful for pain relief.

The insect repellant, made by Abaca Skincologists from Cebu, contains citrus for skin rejuvenation. The herbal aromatic bath comes in four variants subject (June) for its anti-oxidant properties, young gabar (Ambi Ana) as body cleanser, ylang-ylang for relaxation and guava (for its anti-bacterial property).

"We get local lemongrass (known for toning). My dad has proven that when you combine them, the blend becomes potent. We try to innovate," says Rina.

There are seasonal organic soaps such as kalamansi (calcium) for whitening and skin whitening and Ampalaya for anti-fungal properties and sabaw deodorant.

The organic scent and linen sprays are made by G&G enterprises which uses soybean extract and tea tree oil. Financial Shelf also offers room deodorizers and sprays for leather sports equipments.

The bestsellers in the supplements are the turmeric (kayong dilaw) capsules for the anti-cancer and anti-gastritis properties and comforting tablets for urinary tract infection and gallstone, hypertension, colds and fever. Bamboo capsules with their natural insulin fight diabetes, obesity and helps regulate blood pressures. They are made by farmer Foods and Nutrihill Laboratories which is DO-certified. The multiorgan or moringa capsules by Organics Asia are for replenishers in the multi-vitamins.

The food mixes are organic ingredients and unclear MSG, preservatives and artificial color and contain cinnamon, ginger and debon ng ali. They are made by Herb Tree which produces healthy foods.

For children who dislike vegetables, Rina recommends Classic Best, thick packet of powdered turkey, sweetened with honey and contains multivitamin, calcium and chlorella which detoxifies. Oshacho powdered drink which contains no sugar but has lots of malunggay, edelsan ascabasa and lemon grass to boost immunity and Dradan drink for energy.

The products are reasonably priced. The most expensive is a memory enhancing supplement which has spirulina, centella asiatica for energy and gotu kola for anti-aging, worth P1,500.

Although some doctors are still skeptical about herbal supplements and alternative medicine, Rina says the backyard is a natural medicine supplier. "We have potent ingredients. It's a matter of creating more awareness and deepening the understanding of these plants."

For details, contact Rina Galvez Tan at 0916.237.9636 and Living Well Clinic inside Jesus Jones Clinic, Old Megamall at 633-8921.

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DICK TRACY

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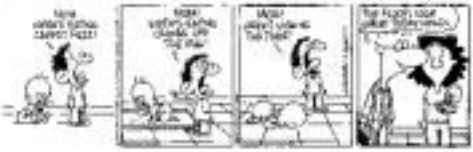


TULOOK — By HARM COLL

BEH — By DANIEL SHELTON

ATOMIC AND WEEDY — By VINA GARCIA-LLANO

KIBO MACHINE — By MANO ABERIA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 20). Conversations with friends and colleagues today are very upbeat today. ... Together we can conquer the world!" It's a good day to have new partnerships or to explore exciting options.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20). Co-workers are supportive and cooperative today. Your ideas at work should be greeted all kinds of possibilities, plus increased profits or innovative better ways of doing things.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). What a playful, carefree day! All the arts can be enjoyed. Close friends, social events and time spent with children. Romantic encounters are within fun!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Family discussions are go-with today. Involve family members in important decisions. Gatherings at home will be outstanding. It's a good day for real estate deals. Yes!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 23). This is an excellent day to be involved with the arts, communication, travel and short, local trips. It's also a wonderful day to write, market, sell or teach.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Business and professional matters are favored today. Your communicating ideas. This is also an excellent day for getting out and about, especially in the morning.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Your ideas are favored today. Be sure to express yourself clearly and pleasantly to avoid misunderstandings. You want to reach out for support from confidences or dreams.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Romantic sparks are flying with co-workers today. Your ideas are well liked. Your intuition is strong. You don't have to look ... unless wants ... you just have to pick the right one!

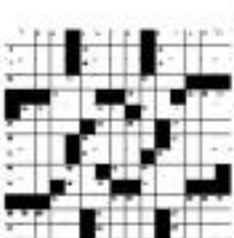
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Your efforts to improve your home life are successful today. People are willing to listen and gather in order to make things happen.

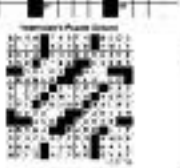
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs are impressed with your efforts today. Your ideas are well received. Be sure to let everyone know what you're talking about. Most of course, you do!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Any kind of study will appeal to you today. You're eager to learn something new, especially about foreign subjects and cultures. Philosophy, religion and the law intrigue you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). If you have to decide something with someone else today, an open and honest discussion of your feelings is needed and generous to each other. (Remember, it will involve exactly what you need.)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

6								4
		7		2		1		3
		3		9		7		1
		4	3				7	5
		2	5				9	8
		5		6		3		9
			1	5		4	6	
9								7

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and progress at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	1	9	3	2	5	7	6	4
3	6	7	9	4	8	2	5	1
5	2	4	6	7	1	9	8	3
7	4	1	5	6	2	3	9	8
9	3	6	1	8	7	4	2	5
2	8	5	4	3	9	6	1	7
1	7	2	8	9	3	5	4	6
4	5	3	2	1	6	8	7	9
6	9	8	7	5	4	1	3	2

Hospital believes 'wellness is the new beauty'

By Jaime Ramirez
Contributor

THE MEDICAL CITY IS ONE OF TWO hospitals in the country that got accreditation from the Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA), the world's most prestigious accrediting body for international health care organizations. The Medical City just received a 99.5 percent satisfaction rating.

I had to see for myself the hospital's amenities. And I was stunned with this state-of-the-art, healthy facility with hotel-like amenities, including a food strip/podest mall aptly called The Strip.

For those seeking professional help with corrective surgery, the hospital's Center For Wellness & Aesthetics provides holistic approach ranging from weight management programs to reconstructive surgery with the assistance of highly-trained medical doctors who are members of the elite Philippine Association of Plastic Reconstructive & Aesthetics Surgeons (Papras).

DR. JEAN Ramos, Dr. Celestino Asuncion, Dr. Ma. Pilar Durango, Dr. Ma. Lourdes Ramos, Dr Nikki Eliseo Palacios and Dr. Jose Antonio Salud (back row) Dr. Alexander de Leon, Dr. Joyce Martin, Dr. Conrado de Grazia, Dr. Stanley Ong, Dr. Edwin Paul Magdalena and Dr. Gerardo Gutmar

In this era of botched cosmetic jobs, it pays to be handled by excellent doctors who are rigorous and carrying members. Due to its tagline, "Wellness is the new beauty", The Medical City's management headed by Dr. Alfredo Bengzon left no stone unturned. Its Bengzon served under the late Tita Cory's administration as health secretary.

Wellness center

Located on the hospital's sixth floor, the lobby-alone of Center for Wellness & Aesthetics gives you a feeling of not being inside a hospital. The reception area resembles a hotel lobby with high ceilings and full picture windows. Clinic lines are all over the place.

What until you get inside a room, which resembles a hotel suite, complete with flat screen TV and dresser. Soon, there will be a spa and fitness club, plus farm-to-based wellness treatments such as acupuncture and meditation.

For its aesthetic services, TMC offers Ultrasonic lasers, pulse dye lasers, minimally invasive surgery and the promise of miracle-called regenerative medicine popularly known as stem cells treatment.

For reconstructive surgery they offer breast (BUSA) augmentation, rhinoplasty, otoplasty lipoplasty, among others. For those who are confronted with obesity problems with Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 and above, bariatrics by board surgeons is an option. TMC's Weight Management Program is composed of 4-stage approach: consultation, diagnosis, nutrition and fitness.

For those seeking cosmetic surgery, the hospital has a team of psychologists/psychiatrists to assess the patient's mental and emotional state before undergoing surgery. The medical director of Plastic Surgery and Burns is headed by no less than Dr. Conrado De Grazia. He makes sure that all patients get their value for money.

The Medical City has over 40 years experience in hospital operations, with over 1,000 physicians. Its world-class health care complex serves 40,000 surgical patients annually and 400,000 patients similarly. For more information, visit www.themedicalcity.com.

Workshop on cancer prevention

THE GLOBAL VIDAL SOURCE Co. Inc. will hold a workshop on cancer prevention and control on Oct. 24-25 at Renaissance Makati Hotel. Workshop topics include disease prevention, understanding cancer cells and how to fight back. Know about food as medicine and spend less on medication. Press reviews are available at www.globalvidalsource.com.

Dr. Christine Gonzalez, author of "Six You Can Prevent & Control Cancer," and doctor of Naturopathic Medicine with PhD in Natural Health & Holistic Nutrition, will be the guest speaker.

Eat guava and 'santol' to manage stress

THERE IS A CENTER OF ENERGY IN ALL of us. This center produces physical sensations.

Here are some questions from readers on hand to the center of energy.

Q: Please explain why during menopause, I lose or lessen my appetite. I feel something in the "pit of my stomach."

Your stomach is in the central area of your body. And every organ in this area is affected each time you are unable to fulfill a wish that is very important to you. The solution here is "surrender to your needs." If the sensation or state continues, it may lead to other stomach acidity happens such time the brain is overloaded with fear, panic, etc. Balance your body chemistry and reduce acid in your stomach by understanding the real cause of your fear. Have faith. Affirm: "I can and I will." Above all, surrender to your needs.

Q: Why do I have regular food and normal cravings?

A craving is a signal that your mind, body or spirit needs to fill. It also may mean, as in food, that you lack a certain nutrient/vitamin. Regular cravings are caused by an unbalanced diet. It could mean that you have a underdeveloped or over-functional instinct or spirit.

Normal cravings are symptoms of fear and doubt in one's self. Natural remedies may satisfy you temporarily but it also means there will never be any satisfaction you could get from just one person. This is the sad truth unless you deal with your real problem. If you don't nourish your psyche well enough to feed your inner hurts, then strangers and strange encounters will continually manipulate you. People and partners will merely be objects to be used and not to be loved.

Q: How can I fight stress?

The word "fight" is already stressful. Let's use the word "manage." This is more positive. Here's a list of things you can do:

- Declare 10 minutes of your time every day-at time-out. Simply close your eyes. Inhale softly, quietly. If you can't rest, call the lights, put on your shades.
- Load up on vitamin B complex.
- Try aromatherapy by lighting up lemon grass scents fragrance sticks.
- Spray on your palms and inhale with closed eyes one of the many different and fragrant mood lifters in the market today...Bliss, a blend of lavender, anise and rosemary oil. (Visit stressbuster.com, 479-4533)
- Sip herbal teas like chamomile, lavender, rose. Or try organic ginger tea with native muscovado sugar from the mountains of Nueva Vizcaya, produced by the farmers' cooperative (0921-2960675Z).

Harness the healing powers of guava and santol through their organic jam and jelly.

Always remember, according to Dr. Gary Zukav in "The Heart of the Soul"—"Each decision is a moment of creativity."

Love and Light!

Gary Quirino

Are events on earth influenced by heavenly bodies?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licanco

EVERY TIME MUTUAL CALAMITIES of great magnitude are experienced by Filipinos, geologists and seismologists usually look aside on Earth for explanations on nature's happening.

Almost nobody looks at the heavens for what's happening on earth. What happens in the various planets and other heavenly bodies such as the sun, moon, and stars have profound effects on human life and every living creature on Earth.

There are unquestionable scientific evidences for this. Sir example, Dr. A.L. Tschizhevskaya, a Russian physician, discovered a remarkable coincidence between physical events on the sun and mood accidents in the Russ border towns. His studies published in 1967 showed that the day after a solar flare, that is, a magnetic storm on the surface of the sun, there was a marked increase in road accidents, as much as four times the daily average. The same coincidence was observed in Germany. Solar flares are known to produce a tremendous amount of ultraviolet radiation which can cause changes on the earth's atmosphere.

No less surprising was the discovery of the behavior of oysters. When they are in their natural habitat, oysters open and close their shells according to the movements of the tides. At high tide, they open their shells to feed, and at low tide, they close them to prevent dryness. No one ever thought the oysters was responding directly to the moon and sun.

Then Dr. Frank Brown, professor of Biology at North Western University, transferred oysters from the Atlantic seaboard of the United States to his laboratory in Evanston, Illinois, a thousand miles from the sea. Within two weeks, the oysters have lost the patterns of opening and closing their shells that they had displayed in their natural habitat in Atlantic, and were following the rhythm of what the tides would have been in Evanston had that town been on the sea. If such is the influence of the heavenly bodies on life on Earth during ordinary circumstances, can we not expect greater effects when a certain unusual heavenly event occurs in the heavens, such as the expected alignment of four major planets and other heavenly bodies which will take place on Dec. 21, 2012, according to the Mayan Calendar? It is not therefore surprising to expect vast changes on earth as well as calamities and upheavals as this date approaches.

Note: The next Inner Mind Development seminar will be held Oct. 24-25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Rm. 308 Prince Plaza 1 Cond., 306 Legaspi St., Greenhill, Makati. Call 830-7251/415-8899, e-mail jaimelicanco@yahoo.com.

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Now, Facile can stay truly, totally scar-free. Thanks to Hirudoid from Switzerland, Hirudoid, a product of advanced technology by a team of professional Swiss dermatologists, is the only gel with the combination of 5 molecules deeply absorbed to the skin that makes scars (pelisol) softer and lighter, bringing back the smoothness of the skin. Hirudoid may be applied to the face and any part of the body.

Hirudoid
The Scar Solution from Switzerland

Property developer celebrates its lucky 7th anniversary

ARCHITECTS ALL—Bong Rocio, Rick Lim and Yogi Antonio

JOSE PEREZ, Tess Mapa, Pecking Zulueta-Gomez, Ting Bengzon and Daniel Gomez

By Larry Laviste
Contributor

"THE SIX PROPERTY GROUP WHO owns one of the crown jewels, Highland Prime Inc., decided to host a big celebration for happy homeowners, future home buyers of Tagaytay Highlands and investors on our seventh year because the Chinese believe it to be a lucky year," said gorgeous Gina Magsaysay.

Held at Manila Polo Club Main Lounge, it was hosted by hostesses Diana Polo-Ridder. Also present were the architects of other Highland Prime developments, media friends and owners and shakers in government. The famous Isaac Highway 54 buys the shindig hot and FREE.

"Our president, Antonio Henson, gave all a show of appreciation and anticipation for more beautiful homes. Highland Prime made merry as it has never done before!" gushed Magsaysay.

GINA MAGSAYSAY and Henry Sy Jr.

HANNAH HENRIE and George Yam

WASHINGTON SYCIP, Antonio Henson and Benjamin Librenio

ELIZA BENGZON

ROY TERRELL, Martin Gomez and Teresa Gomez

ANJOU BENGZON and Julie Jaramillo-Bosch

ANTONIO PEER (seated), Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Forbes, Lourdes Mesa, Corinne de Leon and Rhodes Quintos

LUIGI ESTRELLA, Wyndi Colling and Lucio Cruz

Affair to remember with Jerry Sibal

EDWIN JOSUE, Bessie Daniels, Mia Bermeosa, the author and Jerry Sibal

By Francis A. Jacinto
Contributor

ONCE AGAIN, JERRY SIBAL strikes to pound. The world-renowned, New York-based designer entered his creative profession with Gyuhi's favorite designers, Precious Bally.

The Manila-born artist eventually put up his company, Design Fusion, with business partner Edwin Josue. He penned his name in a designer of marine-mental settings. His clients include top international corporations, private individuals, celebrities and cultural edifices.

The current launch of his latest coffee table book, "An Event to Remember: Designing Spectacular Special Occasions," was auctioned by a large group of friends, fans and family who trooped to Makati Shangri-La Hotel to view the spectacular floral designs that were greeted with "oohs" and "ahhs" as various curtained displays were opened one at a time to reveal magical arrangements.

CRICKETTE, Bea and Nena Tarriere

HENRI LEONOR and Fe Rodriguez

NAQUI and Lilibeth Campos with Rupert and Tina Jacinto

LANI ANG Castelino Bernardo with Charlie Ballon

CRISELDA LIWYOK, Chari Bagtasing and Jocelyn Calalang

FRANCES LIM, Mark L. Higgins, Katrina Feria and Irene Sutco

JOSE and Breanna Ballon with JJ Calero

CHRISTINE CUNNAN and husband Koichi Mii

MANDY TABOADA and Mark Pachanga

CLARINA A. SYQUIA and Jaclyn Abaya

SALEY and Carla Cruz

REMNA ANGELES and Irene Manuel-Francisco

MARISA COJUANGCO, Mimi Tuio and Melanie Sainz

Editor Ermie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Kelly Clarkson Las Vegas concert contest

CLICK!

Six films compete in Cinemanila's Digital Lokal

A SCENE from "Dahong"

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A SEEDY BAR. A BUS MOTORing from Manila to Bicol. The set of a porn flick. Vigan during World War II. The ruined remains of Pangasinan, pre-Dipong. The precipice between youth and adulthood in Pateros-pongpa.

These are but some of the territories explored in the six entries in Cinemanila's Digital Lokal competition.

Jon Red's "Nag-Iisahanan," produced by actors Joel Torre and Ronnie Lazaro, is described as "a love story and social commentary" by the director.

"We can see the entire society inside a boarding house," he noted. "Everyone in there. From the corrupt and powerful to the wannabes and underdogs."

Red attempted to capture the actual experience of "bar-hopping in his film. "The goal is to have a relaxing and interesting experience."

Red praises his actors Epy Quizon, Ryan Eigenmann and Coreen Garcia as "gems. They all pitched in their ideas and improvised. We shot in a rented garage and turned it into a girly-bar which has since been converted into a chapel."

Quite serendipitously, Christopher Gonzales "boarding house" managed to accommodate Nergeman before it was devastated by the floods brought by Typhoon "Dipong."

BALITA

Christian Bautista topples Korean acts

THE TORMENTING ALBUM IN the Philippines for the week Oct. 5-11, based on Odyssey Music & Video store chain's nationwide sales report:

Overall

1) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Minus One Edition)," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 2) "Gimme," Girls' Generation, Universal Records; 3) Ya U, "Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 4) "Stainless," SB19ne, Universal Records; 5) "Soulsurf, Mainstreaming Salamat Pero, Gary C. Aquino," Various Artists, Star Records; 6) "Benditions Of The Sacred," Silent Sanctity; 7) "Memories Of An Imperfect Angel," Florida Canny, MCA Music; 8) "Bow Na Hips," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 9) "Change," Jennifer Rendez-Star Records; 10) "Swing, Sweety," Super Junior, Universal Records

OPM

1) "Romance Revisited: The Love Songs of Jose Mari Chan (Exclusive Minus One Edition)," Christian Bautista, Universal Records; 2) Ya U, "Martin Nievera & Gary Valenciano, Universal Records; 3) "Stainless, Mainstreaming Salamat Pero, Gary

CONTINUED ON A2

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GALLERIA

1 JULIE & JULIA
2 RED CLIFF
3 NOT FORGOTTEN
4 THE UGLY TRUTH
5 THE ECHO
6 G-FORCE (Digital 3D)
7 Initial Dee: SAMSLAAM
8 BOYLETS
9 IN MY LIFE
10 FAME

ERMITA

1 THE UGLY TRUTH / FAME
2 JULIE and JULIA
3 RED CLIFF
4 THE ECHO
5 NOT FORGOTTEN
6 SURROGATES
7 G-FORCE / BOYLETS

METRO EAST

1 RED CLIFF
2 G-FORCE
3 THIS is ARGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
4 THE ECHO
5 NOT FORGOTTEN
6 THE UGLY TRUTH / SURROGATES
7 IN MY LIFE
8 FAME

NOVALICHES

1 RED CLIFF
2 THE ECHO
3 THIS is ARGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
4 SURROGATES

PIONEER

1 THE ECHO
2 NOT FORGOTTEN
3 RED CLIFF
4 G-FORCE

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STA. ROSA

1 RED CLIFF
2 THE GAMER
3 ECHO
4 IN MY LIFE

LIPA

1 WHITE OUT
2 G-FORCE
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 THE UGLY TRUTH

DASMARIÑAS

1 ECHO
2 THE GAMER
3 RED CLIFF
4 IN MY LIFE

IMUS

1 THE GAMER
2 IN MY LIFE
3 RED CLIFF
4 THE ECHO

STARMILLS

1 IN MY LIFE
2 HORSEMEN
3 THE ECHO
4 THIS is ARGELINA: THE SPOILED BRAT MOVIE
5 G-FORCE
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES

1 THE FINAL DESTINATION
2 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS
3 THE ECHO
4 HORSEMEN

TACLOBAN

1 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 G-FORCE / THE UGLY TRUTH
3 THE GAMER

BACOLOD

1 G-FORCE
2 THE GAMER
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 HORSEMEN
5 MY SISTER'S KEEPER
6 THE GRUDGE 3

ILOILO

1 G-FORCE
2 THE FINAL DESTINATION
3 SORORITY ROW
4 HORSEMEN
5 BANGSLAM
6 THE GAMER

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)

1 SURROGATES
2 ALIENS IN THE ATTIC
3 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
4 SORORITY ROW

KATE Abad and Ping Medina in "Sine"

Six films ...

From page D1

"It's shot like a documentary," explained Gomez who's based in Saudi Arabia. "The film has no lines of dialogue. All the spoken lines in the film are from Ferguinton language poems or sinlang."

Gomez's "interest in Ferguinton's culture, history and literature" inspired him to make the film with the P80,000 cash prize he won in last year's Cinemalaya.

He worked with both professional actors Ezekiel Grisolio and "Che Ramos" and nonactors in "Seachorus." "Winnie Against is my mother's pagal in my hometown of Bayombong. He has no previous experience, but he looks confident and natural onscreen."

In "Hamburg Lupo," fernando "Ring" Lao sought to recreate an 8-hour bus trip from Manila to Sinol.

"We shot inside a bus, cramped bus," Lao recalled. "We had to coax a crippd for the camera, so it took a while to set up."

He tapped friends like Jaclyn Jose, Julia Montes, Coco Martin, Angel Aquino, Eugene Domingo, among others, as his passengers.

Biggest challenge

Brian Paperdo's "Sine" is a historical romance that chronicles how "the war spared from destruction during World War II largely because of the love of a Japanese officer for an Ilonggo maiden."

Hpon was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1999, he said. "Hpon is a source of identity and pride for all Filipinos."

Bigasin's scientist fear the biggest challenge was "to make an independently produced period film with limited time and budget in a picturesque place."

Also, he had a Japanese lead actor (Hiroaki Takashima) who didn't understand Filipino. "He had two scripts: Filipino for the locals [for the crew, staff, and Filipinos for the Japanese. Plus, we also had flowers on the side."

It was a virtual travel of Babel. "That's the magic of filmmaking. In spite of the language barrier, we pulled it off."

Ted Manuel calls his film, "It's 1/2," as "the most artistic Filipino porn film." Still, he pointed out that his many features no nudity or sex scenes.

More the going gets rough, Pinoys rely on humor, he said. "I wanted to make a film about the stuff [we]spend at about Filipinos. Our love of movies, for song and dance, and our ability to laugh in the face of anything life throws at us."

Lito Casaje's "Galawan" features a cast of newcomers. He describes it as a "coming-of-age film" as seen through the eyes of the titular heroine.

"Biggest challenge was to retell an old but story and make it look cutting-edge, different, more insightful and original," Casaje said.

He explained that his goal was "to reinvent a story limited to my own vision and would view People Seen earned a blind eye on the issues presented in the film."

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Christian Bautista ...

From page D1

C. Aguilera," Various Artists, Star Records; 4) "Untitled (If The Soul)," Wax, Warner Music; 5) "Born No Sign," Willie Revillame, Star Records; 6) "Change," Jericho Rosales, Star Records; 7) "Mad About Acoustic," Dawn, Viva Records; 8) "Playlist," Freestyle, Viva Records; 9) "The Rock Chronicles," Discord, MCA Music; 10) "Live! The Album: Music of the Loved Up! Station/Various Artists," Star Records

US Top 10 singles

The best-selling singles in the United States, including digital downloads, as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine:

1) "3," Britney Spears, 2) "Down," Jay Sean feat. Lil Wayne, Universal Republic; 3) "Party in the U.S.A.," Miley Cyrus, Hollywood; 4) "Paparazzi/Telephone," Lady GaGa, Interscope; 5) "Bad Romance," Lady Gaga, Interscope; 6) "Not Believing Pills Me," Taylor Swift, Big Machine; 7) "Paradise," Coldplay, Universal Republic; 8) "Use Somebody," Kings of Leon, RCA;

MJ tribute artist at Heritage

MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE ARTIST Kenny Vilca performs numerous at Heritage Hotel, Pasay. He was the resident MJ tribute act at Fantasia Hotel in Vegas for 13 years.

A Kapamilya signs up with Viva

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Was the network the last to know?

IRIS CLAUDINE'S BOUNCING OUT OF STAR Magic really cause a commotion in the Kapamilya network? Were they the last to know that she would move to Viva Films?

Veronique del Rosario-Corpus, the lady boss of Viva, seems to set the record straight. "As far as Viva is concerned, Claudine has signed a two-picture deal with us," she clarifies. "We were told she doesn't have a contract with Star Cinema and that's why she was free to move out with my dad (Boss Vic del Rosario) and Tita Annie Tarrayo and closed the deal. She said she will still do her soap with ABS-CBN."

Every artist needs a change of scenery once in awhile to see if the grass is really greener on the other side.

Wacky love team

Make way for the sweetest love team in for your TV screens, Bella Mae Quimzon and Akihiro Sato, who top-bill GMA TV 5's SPO Quinamoyan, "Model, Modia I Love You" Thursdays after "Morning Inhinto."

Bold has grown fond of her new leading man. "Nakakatuwa siya kasi he speaks more Tagalog than English. Aabot ito Japanese and Bisaldine accent. He's willing to learn anything," she says. "Laugh trip kami kahit sa lunch na kuwentuhan walang malay sa aspeto."

Daniel has fonnest pet peeves of Akihiro? "He cusses out," she says. "He knows that I used to abuse laughter with the whole artist world."

Being one of Vicky's dear friends, I know that shooting everything she's got in something don't never get tired of doing.

What goes around ...

Could it be true that Marian Rivera is getting jealousy attacks because Dingdong Dantes' leading lady in "Stairway To Heaven," Diana Zubiri, is flirting harmlessly with Dingdong? As a production member says, "Kinikilig si Mian when the watches Dong shoot his scenes. No malice naman."

Marian may not readily admit this. Wait till she gets Diadorin and reminisces deeper.

Wattpad

PLDT myDSL has introduced another first—the revolutionary Wattpad which is free for its subscribers nationwide. Log on to www.pldtmydsl.net for details. For its grand premiere, Wattpad's one-stop Movie Central, myFlicks, showcases the award-winning films of the directors Bellamie Hensley, Seth Holden, and Dave Ocon. Wattpad!

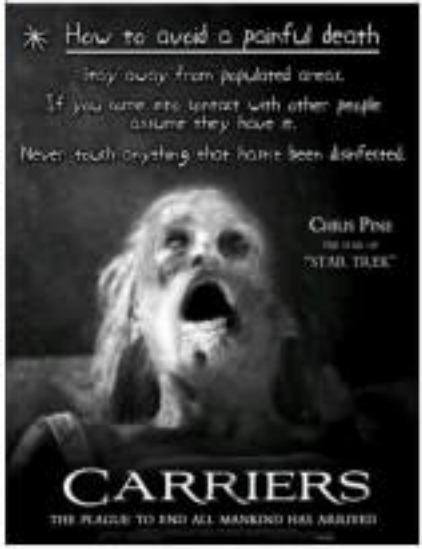
Special needs

With the success of indie films that tackle the plight of people with disabilities, like Mike Sandejas' "Ding Sana Kita" and Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Bwaw," it is evident that special attention is being given by people from all three corners to cater to such "special needs."

Rep. Irwin Tieng of Bulacan Partylist has proposed the passing of House Bill 3217, which grants exemptions from securing permission from the copyright owner to reproduce printed materials in a specialized format for the exclusive use of the blind.

Love is blind, as they say. But we should also show love for the blind.

E-mail: amoringlodestar@yahoo.com



Promoting gay pride in RP

By Aaron Adina

NOT EVEN A SERIES OF DEVASTATING calamities could stop the celebration of homosexual pride in the Philippines.

CANDIDATE Miss Gaultier

There days after Typhoon Ondoy flooded Metro Manila on Sept. 26, the Center for Philippine Arts and Cultural Entertainment Association Inc. launched the "Amazing Philippine Boy" 2009 pageant at the Solaire Philippine Plaza in Pasay City.

The organization renames the name daily Amazing Philippine Theater shows at the Manila Film Center.

"The show is like a form celebration to all diverse homosexuals," said Cassie Villarosa, the organization's vice president.

As the launch program, the 21 candidates paraded in specially designed costumes that showed their alluring curves—either God given or store made.

The Amazing Philippine Beauties pageant aims to promote "responsible homosexuality," said Cassie. The competition hopes to present a more positive view of gays in the Philippines by showing that they can be "gainfully employed," Cassie said.

Every year, the country's Top 5 finalists are offered full-time employment in the Amazing Philippine Theater.

Some stakeholders have also teamed up to "figure" investors. Cassie said he is president of the Amazing Philippine Beauty 2009 Arms Signatory, who owns resorts in tourist in China.

Outgoing queen Angel Santillan will crown her successor on Dec. 22 at the Manila Film Center.